

Hits Twp. Resident's Observer Interview

Brennan Threatens Libel Suit

The March 10 issue of the Observer carried an interview with Joseph H. Larson, an attorney living in Farmington Township. The interview came at the close of a meeting of the Township Board, during which he had disclosed that he was suing to force the Township to hold an election on whether to permit Thomas Duke's proposed Independence Green Apartment development.

In the interview, Larson said that Township attorney Joseph T. Brennan was guilty of conflict of interest because he does private legal work for Duke, who is also a Township Trustee.

Brennan has reacted to these charges with the threat of a law suit against Larson. Brennan began by discussing the Observer article:

"This publication in the newspaper resulted in me informed from remarks made by you in the presence of witnesses and in the course of an interview with a reporter from this newspaper.

"Your remarks in the presence of the Board and to the reporter for obvious purposes of publication in the newspaper are completely false, were made maliciously and constitute libel and slander per se.

"In accordance with Section 2811 of the Revised Judicature Act of the State of Michigan I hereby serve notice upon you to publish a complete retraction of this libel within 15 days after you receive this letter, such retraction to be published in accordance with the requirements of the statute.

"If the retraction is not published and communicated to me within this period you may expect to be compelled upon to respond in damages."

Larson is out of town and could not be contacted by the Observer. But his attorney, Gilbert Fymer, had this reaction to the possibility of a law suit: "I don't think that this type of response from Mr. Brennan really serves any useful community purpose. Mr. Larson's objective is not hurt anyone, but is an invitation to self-censorship on the part of Mr. Brennan and other community officials.

"The answer to the problems of Farmington Township will not be found in any sort of threat of retaliation of this kind.

"Politics is conflict and contention. And for this reason the right of public and fair comment is very broad in the United States.

"But this response again is not in my judgement going to enhance the reputation of the government of Farmington Township. It is this question of the reputation of the government that is really critical, and it is the question that should concern the Trustees of Farmington Township.

"The reputation of a democracy governing entity is dependent on its respect for community feeling, the full expression of citizen sentiment, and the creation of assured, popular consensus for proposed action. This our country has been the only durable kind of leadership.

A Writ for Mandamus prepared by Primet, as attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Larson, and Mr. and Mrs. Harris Berger has just been served on all of the Township Trustees. This is the suit that seeks to force an election on the Duke project.

It states: "That the defendant Duke, a principal and the developer of the project, is a trustee... that the attorney for the Township, one Joseph T. Brennan, whose legal opinion urged the Township Board to reject the right of referendum, has acted for an attorney for the said Duke on prior occasions, and there is serious question as to the legality and propriety of the actions of both the defendant Duke and the said Brennan in connection with their participation in the action of the Zoning Board on the Township Board."

The statement says that "upwards of 1400 signatures were obtained" and that this should have been sufficient to require an election.

Attorney Brennan says that to begin with the statement does not specify the exact amount of signatures. Furthermore, the total submitted was far below the necessary 15% of those eligible to sign. He says the burden of proof will be on them.



THE DRIVER swung his huge hauler truck to make a turn into O'Green's Ford Agency on Grand River in Farmington and this is what happened. The new cars on the top broke loose and one caught on the telephone pole as the truck swung. Police had to direct traffic around the truck for more than an hour until a crane arrived to lift the pole and keep it from falling to the street.

It's Final: ERO Replaced by RIE in Farmington

The Farmington City Council, meeting on Monday, March 15, approved the recommendation of the City's Planning Commission, that Lots 1 through 16, Assessor's Plat No. 1, west side of Farmington Road, south of Alta Loma Drive to Freedom Road, be rezoned from Education Research Office, to single family, residential.

At the same meeting the Council appointed Mrs. Glenn Leland to replace Mrs. Harold F. Brown, as representative to the Beautification Council of Michigan.

In another action, the Council accepted the bid — it was the lowest — of the Chisom Contracting Co., for the job of finishing the Siks Building, at 33300 Grand River. The amount of the bid was \$2,100.

Youth Guidance Committee To Expand Services Here

At its monthly meeting on March 9, the General Citizens Youth Guidance Committee of Greater Farmington decided to improve and expand the counseling services which are available to the youth in the Farmington community.

In line with this, the group agreed that a major effort must be made to improve their facilities at 33425 Grand River, and in the near future various civic groups will be based to assist in this endeavor.

The Farmington Committee set up under the Protective Services Division of the Oakland County Probate Court, provides this area with a social worker for two days a week.

However, this is the only aid received from outside the community. The Farmington Township and the Farmington Board of Education contribute funds.

They have been asked to increase their allotments for the coming fiscal year, in order to more effectively serve the counseling needs of the young people in our community.

The citizens on the Youth

Guidance Committee feel that a major effort must be made both to inform the general public of the services available, and also to seek greater support from the general population. They feel that in this way they could more effectively work towards their general objective of promoting "any endeavor which enables the young people to realize and enjoy his fullest capacities as a happy and healthy individual during the fascinating, formative and challenging years of adolescence; thus giving him the healthiest preparation for adulthood in our flourishing society."

In other action, the Chairman, Robert Eddy, announced the appointment of Mrs. Jean Brush as Membership Chairman and Mrs. Marjorie Gluckstein as Education and Publicity Chairman with Mr. Francis Bersler as assistant. It was announced that the citizen youth guidance groups from 25 Oakland County communities are planning a workshop conference on Friday, April 23, at Oakland University.

Eddy is on the Planning Committee for this meeting. He urged that all total guidance committee members make plans to attend.

in the special interests of the business community. They feel the present Council is already overbalanced in favor of the business community. He feels that there is now a pretty good balance. Of the five on the Council, at present, three are business men. But one of them Mayor Robert Lindbert, though maintaining offices in the City, does a substantial amount of his business in other parts of the county. Another of them, Hugo Peterson, is a local barber, who deals only in services. The third, Howard Thayer, owns a funeral home in Farmington.

Pointing out the contribution that businessmen have made to the community, Cornwell says that before he built the Farmington Center shopping center "you couldn't even buy a shoe here in this town."

He urges the voters to back a man who "lives in Farmington, works in Farmington, and wants Farmington to be the best."



THE FARMINGTON JAYCEES toured the shopping centers of the community Saturday afternoon, drumming up interest in their upcoming musical extravaganza "Anything Goes." This exchange between the young businessmen of the community and some of their future competition took place at the Farmington Center. The youngsters from left to right: Chris and David Mithin, Tom and Gary Darin, and Rick Frank. The Jaycees from left to right are: Neal Kurth, Max Kiling, Larry Nameche, and Art Burns. Marvin Welch (not the Gayhaven comic), of the Edison Co., is playing the cello in the background. The play will be staged at Farmington Junior High School, Warner and School, on March 19 and 20.

Farmington Groups in Music Festival

The program is set for the annual "Festival of Music" according to its General Chairman, Harold Larson.

The Festival, to be held at North Farmington High School at 8 p.m., is the first planned event of its kind in the Farmington community. Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Farmington, it features vocal and instrumental groups from Farmington area schools and the community's very popular Kendallwicks.

School groups performing in the gala event include: North Farmington High School's "Northern Chorales", Farmington High School's "Falconaires", East Junior High School's "Brass Choir", the "Melodiers" of O. E. Duckett Junior High School, the "Festival Orchestra" composed of musicians from secondary schools and the highly entertaining "Kendallwicks".

Proceeds will go toward youth projects in the community.

Larson credited James Hunt, director of the Northern Chorales, who is school coordinator for the program and Reverend William Holmes, who is Program Chairman. He said both men have worked tirelessly to make "Festival of Music" a success. He also praised Fickett Sales Chairman, Dr. Paul Parante; Publicity Co-Chairmen William Patterson and Robert Patterson; and Equipment and Building Chairman, Robert Bergstrom.

Allen added that adult student tickets are \$1 and 50 cents respectively.

They may be purchased from any Kendallwicks Kiwanian or through participating school music departments and are also available at the Farmington Medical Center, 29338 Orchard Lake Road.

Allen criticized the transportation situation, both to and from the city, as unsatisfactory. He feels we must combine our efforts with other communities to develop a more adequate bus service to and from the major shopping areas in Detroit. "We should look ahead to new proposals by the greater metropolitan area now under consideration.

"Intercity transportation should be re-evaluated and improved in relation to service and rates. Similar problems have been successfully surmounted in other communities."

Since most Farmington adults have completed four years of high school, Allen feels there is "a great need for the Council to recognize and encourage the development of cultural and civic programs." He specified "the future improvement of the Farmington District Library, and the growing need for central community facilities."

He expressed regret over the lack of communication between City officials and the citizenry, which he said, has created much misunderstanding. He said a program should be set up to inform the people of what the officials are doing. And the people should be encouraged to participate in the government.

There are, he noted, a growing number of older citizens in the community. He feels there should be a strong effort to meet their needs, and to make use of their skills.

Another area of criticism by Allen, is traffic safety.

He says the annexation of parts of Farmington Township would be logical for both the City and the Township. The areas annexed would benefit by increased services, efficiencies, and cost of government.

And the City would decrease its unit cost per capita for administration. The City residents would get more and better services.

Allen does not claim that his views are original, conceding that they have been talked about for years. But he feels he is a man who could move them along.

Candidate Allen's Program Includes Some Annexation

John A. Allen, Farmington architect and planner, who is now a candidate for a seat on the City Council has released a statement, indicating his program for the future of the City.

As he sees it, the City has one natural resource that it must not overlook — its "undiscovered" asset. The administration, he says, has the responsibility of preserving, developing and enhancing this "undiscovered" asset.

"While it is still available, the city should seek immediate acquisition of the additional land costs make this impractical. The stream should be cleaned and maintained.

"Underbrush should be cleared. Attractive paths should be laid out along the banks."

Allen's other recommendations for the beautification of Farmington are: making an effort to obtain property for additional park areas in the south portion of the community. There should be a city-wide program of tree planting and preservation. There should be careful planning of future building developments.

"More attention should be given to placement of buildings

Trena Quinn Is Honored

The innumerable friends and admirers of Mrs. Harold Quinn — Trena to everyone — will be delighted to know that she has been named Woman of the Year, by the Farmington Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. Sure and its fine St. Patrick's Day present indeed.

This pretty and efficient lady has been Clerk of Farmington since 1957.

In addition, she is a mother, a grandmother, treasurer of the March of Dimes and an American Legion Auxiliary officer.

Her family has lived in Farmington since 1914. She graduated from Farmington High in 1923 — in a class of 23, the largest in the history of the school up to that time.

Her husband, Harold, is from Port Huron. He is an all-around maintenance man at the Detroit Artillery Armory.

During World War II, he made approximately 22 crossings of the sub-infested Atlantic, on a tanker named "Mataponi." He ended the War on duty in the Pacific.

Trena was honored with a dinner at Kosteres, on Monday March 15. The modest lady said she was very successful to the City Council for giving her job.



FARMINGTON POLICE CHIEF Maurice Foltz, and Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor James Roberts talk strategy after a session of the Welles Herrington murder case. He was acquitted. For complete details and pictures see page 3.

Cornwell and Allen Take Issue with FRS

Candidates in Farmington's April 5 City Council race are getting down to issues. The FRS team, of Henry Forrest, Robert Rogers and Ernest Sauter, put their platform on the line weeks ago, and, as was inevitable, it is now being shot at.

The FRS team put special emphasis on the need for greater recreation facilities in the City. Candidate Ralph Yoder and incumbent Councilman Wilbur Brotherton expressed general agreement with this and with most of the rest of the platform.

Now, however, John A. Allen, a Farmington architect and city planner, has released a statement which appears to be an implied criticism of the FRS approach as too unplanned. "To speak of recreation in too general terms invites failure and encourages stagnation," he says.

Allen concedes that recreation is a problem, and that something must be done about it: "44 per cent of our population is under 16 years of age, and must be provided with a realistic, active program. Our present weak recreational efforts must be bolstered and enlarged."

"Competent supervision and direction should be provided. A municipal year around swimming pool should be proposed with a factual analysis of the total program. This should be outlined to the citizens and voted upon."

Another candidate who finds fault with the FRS program is Farmington builder Virgil Cornwell. FRS also stands for Farmington Residents Speak. At the point of this article is that Forrest, Rogers and Sauter only live in the City, and do not make their living here. That they therefore would be speaking for the residents, rather

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American Legion Stages Affair

The American Legion's 46th Birthday will be celebrated with a dinner at the Groves-Walker Post 346, at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 18. The public is invited.

The principle speaker will be James Case, Department Membership Chairman. There will also be an initiation of new members.

For reservations call Hal Quinn, GR 4-2295, or Norman Goers, GR 4-9636.

Farmington Candidates To Discuss Civil Rights

The two men seeking election to the 14th State Senate are Mr. Edward McNamara and Mr. Farrell Roberts. Those running for election to the City of Farmington Council are Wilber Brotherton, John Allen, H. E. Forrest, E. E. Sauter, Jr., Robert Rogers, Ralph Yoder, and Virgil Cornwell.

This meeting is planned for all residents of the township and city of Farmington, and a capacity crowd is hoped for, according to the Farmington Human Relations Council. Those attending are invited to take part in the social coffee hour which follows.

Story of Brawl Is False Alarm

Further information from the Farmington Police Department clarifies the story carried on page one of the Redford Observer, last week reporting a brawl at a high school basketball game.

Two Redford Union youths were taken to the police station and questioned but were released and not charged. There was no trouble in the gym. A hassle occurred outside the gym.