

# The Farmington

## ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER

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*Oppertbauer, Bain Are Best Known*

# Township Names Citizen Review Board For Police Complaints

**By EMORY DANIELS**

Farmington Township now officially has a Citizens' Complaint Investigating Committee to check into charges or allegations of police brutality or misconduct.

The review board was formed Monday night by a resolution adopted by the township board. After establishing the review board, five township residents were named to serve for one year.

THE IDEA of a police review board was first suggested last spring in the midst of the appeal board hearing for Det. Sgt. Earl Teeples.

During the Teeples hearing, five separate allegations of police brutality were made against Township Patrolman John Hodrick.

At that time, the township board adopted a resolution of intent to create a review board to investigate the allegations. After stating its intent, the board then limited Teeples' defense attorney, James Dawson, to discussing only one of the five allegations.

From that point on, the trial board testimony was limited to alleged brutality committed against Foster Moler.

The language was clear last spring that the review board would investigate the five allegations. However, Monday night it was explained that the review board would not be commissioned to investigate the past five allegations but only future charges which might arise.

The resolution of intent adopted last spring read: "In order that the fine reputation which this department (township police) has earned is tarnished, the board feels that it is necessary that these charges be investigated promptly and thoroughly and that the accused officer or officers either be exonerated or appropriately disciplined.

"To this end, the township board has authorized the formation of a five - man citizens committee to be appointed by the township board to investigate the charges made during the current appeal hearing....

"On the other hand, the township board does not believe that the current appeal hearing is a proper forum for the review of charges made against any police officer unrelated to the specific conduct which brought about Detective Teeples' discipline."

Investigated by the FBI and township detective bureau and a report has been filed with the U.S. Justice Department and Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

Hall did not elaborate on the results of the report but only explained there was no any need for further investigation of the five allegations.

He stated the citizens' committee will handle all future complaints if there are any but will not investigate past complaints.

Hall said county prosecutors have the findings and if criminal warrants are issued against any township officer he will be suspended immediately.

THE FIVE residents who will serve on the police review board are:

John Bain of 30945 Perry's Crossing;

Harold Larson of 35200 Pleasant Valley;

Robert McConnell of 30106 Valleyside Drive;

Charles Fritz of 28251 Woodward Trail; and,

Earl Oppertbauer of 32216 Balmire.

There was some opposition to the selection of Oppertbauer to the review board. Oppertbauer served on the township board until last year when he resigned to run for District Judge.

Trustee Charles Williams objected to the appointment of Oppertbauer but lost by a 4-3 vote in a bid to remove the former trustee's name from consideration.

Williams said he objected to Oppertbauer because during the campaign for District Judge, Oppertbauer ran as a conservative in favor of "law and order."

Williams said it was best to have moderates and liberals on a police review board as "opposed to a conservative who might be predetermined in favor of a hard line for police officers."

THE PUBLIC must be assured the review board will not be a whitewash, stressed Williams. "Earl is too close to the administration to be an independent champion for individual citizen rights," he added.

Trustee Tom Nolan heeded disagreed with Williams and described Oppertbauer as "an outstanding citizen capable of making an independent decision."

Hall, who said he knew Oppertbauer for six-eight years, described him as "one of the finest and strongest contributors to the board, with an uncanny ability to get to the meat of the question."

"As far as Earl being a conservative, we need more like him," commented Mrs. Elise

Avery. "Don't you think it's time we have order in our society?"

Williams asked that two votes be taken on the appointments, one on Oppertbauer and one on the other four.

Williams motion failed 4-3 with Nolan, Mrs. Avery, Hall and Floyd Cairns voting against a separate ballot on Oppertbauer.

AFTER THE FIVE were named to the committee, the board appointed Bain as temporary chairman. Bain is currently serving as a special investigator for the attorney general for the Oakland County grand jury.

The five were selected earlier, from a list of 12-15 names. The names were narrowed to five by balloting in executive session. All five have agreed to serve.

The machinery for the review board was spelled out in the resolution which stated: "Citizens' complaints shall be filed with the township clerk. The complaining citizen shall state the nature of the complaint in writing, giving the date, time, place, specific incident, parties involved, names of witnesses, and all other pertinent information concerning his complaint."

The complaint will then be given to the review board chairman who will assemble committee members who will then investigate and hold hearings on making an independent decision.

All hearings will be private, and closed to the public. Hearings will be informal and "no evidence directly connected with the particular complaint in question shall be heard."

The township attorney will assist and counsel the committee during the hearing. All parties to any hearing will have full right to counsel.

SUPERVISOR Curtis Hall explained that the five allegations made during the Teeples hearing have been thoroughly

### today's hot line

### More Mortgages

Bankers and other mortgage financiers today predicted an easier flow of suburban loan money after Gov. Milliken signed a bill lifting Michigan's historic 7 per cent interest rate. Opponents of the measure predicted a court fight over its constitutionality.

At the same time, Milliken vetoed a bill which would have increased the \$1,000 ceiling on small loans to \$3,500.

### what's inside

### Cardinal Stops Here

Farmington has a number of visitors throughout the year but last week was honored by a special guest, Cardinal Platteau of Canada. A report of the visit to the home of Mrs. Westcott Peterson, a second cousin, is given today by Elizabeth Wisman. Page 3A

### Bunnies and Sex

A staffer from the Farmington Enterprise & Observer received a bit of sex education Monday while investigating nuisance complaints made against two rabbits in Chatham Hills Subdivision. The surprising result of the investigation is reported inside. Page 3A

### Time To Buy Trees

There are still trees available for Farmington Township residents to order, but deadline for requests has been set for Sept. 1. You may find an order blank and details on trees inside. Page 4A

### Literary Dems

Democrats in the 19th District have had more than their share of newsletters published in the last few months. Recently, a group that says it's tired of factionalism started another. Page 7A

### Brown Water

Two lakes in the Middle Rouge chain have the worst weed problems that they've had in years. But Wayne County officials say they're starting to do something about it. Page 8C

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### upcoming

AN OBSERVERLAND man who is the official cartoonist of the Detroit Tigers says a caricature shouldn't be cruel. "Fritz" Crisler, retired U-M athletic director, talks to Roving Editor W. W. Edgar about the future of professionalism in college athletics.

### "Excellent response to our ad

... and the beds were sold to one of the first persons had in call," said Mrs. John Rose. Use Observer Want Ads to buy, sell or trade.

DOUBLE bunk beds complete, sleeps 4, ladder, guard rail, oak. Excellent condition. Phone 000-0000.

Classified WANT ADS 422-0900



SERMON IN WOOD -- French sculptor Jean-Claude Gaugu, of Farmington and the Rev. George Ramsay of the First United Presbyterian Church of Farmington hang one of Gaugu's wood reliefs in the church. The sculptor created a series of seven wood reliefs for the church in memory of a member of the congregation. (Evert photo)

## Works Are Vivid Sermons

**By ELIZABETH WISSMAN**

With the simple tools of hammer and chisel and wood, Farmington's French Sculptor-in-residence Jean-Claude Gaugu, 25 years old, turns out wood relief carvings of such emotional impact they amount to sermons on life.

One can't view Gaugu's wood reliefs with casual appraisal. His hammer and chisel tell stories in wood that are too powerful for transient interest.

THE SCULPTOR'S works are rough-hewn but filled with the vigor, force and clarity of vision one finds in the masters of the Renaissance.

Yet like the Renaissance masters, Gaugu's subject matter is mostly people and all fables of humanity from gaily to solemnity to tragedy. Gaugu's ability to capture the pathos of people stems from his own philosophy of life and art.

"Art is communication," says the French native, "it is an international language. The artist is not the one who is talking in his creation -- it is the people -- and as many questions as people ask themselves, only the artist can answer."

PEOPLE are more important to Farmington's permanent French resident than they usually are to an artist.



IN MEMORIAM -- The Rev. George Ramsay of the First United Presbyterian Church of Farmington stands beside one of the seven memorial wood reliefs carved for the church by French sculptor Jean-Claude Gaugu. (Evert photo)

## School Board Must Resolve Dress Dispute

**By HOWARD KOHN**

Despite solemn warnings to themselves against getting skewered on the controversial issue of student dress codes, Farmington's school trustees have agreed to issue a policy statement on dress within the next few weeks.

Formally, the Board of Education will be acting on a proposed code set down by a 13-member committee from North Farmington High School.

ROBERT HUGHES, student body president, and Clayton Graham, principal, introduced the code at Monday night's meeting.

If approved, the code would give the go-ahead to women's slacks, men's beards, mustaches, long hair, and to all shorts and bermudas.

"The committee's conclusion is that the way a student dresses and is groomed is the joint responsibility of that student and his parents," reads the code's introduction.

Four student council members, two at-large students, four parents, two teachers and one administrator sat on the committee.

ALTHOUGH avoiding an outright endorsement of the code, Graham said he would "back it 100 per cent if it was approved."

The code represents four months of study after last March's student picketing which protested the present dress code at North Farmington.

The committee worked independently of the board.

TRUSTEES commented briefly on the code in an informal debate involving several members of the audience.

"Parents expect the schools to set guidelines," noted John Vainham, "I couldn't vote for anything that didn't measure up to my good standards."

Richard Frankel disagreed arguing dress policies involved questions of civil liberties more than moral standards.

The board vaguely reached a consensus on the relative insignificance of dress codes in comparison to educational issues.

"Dress is probably the least important issue," said Richard Peters, board president, "It seems to be the one on everybody's mind."

"Feelings on the dress code have gotten out of proportion," concurred Aldo Vagnozzi. "I think student disagreement with dress policy is a symptom of deeper things."

But the board could not make the subject go away.

Audience members continued to expound their opinions on dress, debating both extremes without finding much middle ground for compromise.

THE PROPOSED dress code did receive the unanimous endorsement of the committee and of the North Farmington student council.

In two separate surveys conducted by this committee last year at North Farmington, 60 per cent of the parents interviewed favored retention of the code.

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