

# Farmington Observer

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RANDY BORSST/staff photographer

Larry Nozéro has turned his love for jazz into a full-time vocation which has allowed him to perform with some of the most famous jazz personalities of the century.

## Artist swings to ethnic beat

By Craig Piechura staff writer

The languid jazz saxophone lines Larry Nozéro is used to playing seem a far cry from the Italian waltzes and mazurkas he heard his father play on the clarinet back in the '50s.

"He came over here playing all-out folk music from Italy," explains Nozéro, a resident of Farmington.

"Voices either. "Voices either. It was the waltzes, the mazurkas, very fine music. The melodies he brought over were very unique melodies. You just don't hear them any more — not even there.

As often happens in music, the lines of demarcation come tumbling down when musicians trade ideas. When it came time for Nozéro, leader of the Larry Nozéro Quartet, to record a self-produced album, called "Identities," he recalled some of those ethnic melodies and incorporated them in a song called "Pranzalito."

The song's title comes from the name of the province in Italy where his father, also named Lawrence, grew up.

"Two tunes on the album I took an influence from my childhood and wrote variations on the theme," Nozéro said. "They sound almost like 'Carnival in Venice,' where you state the theme and then take off."

"The RECORD company is headed by Detroit area vibraphonist Jack Brokenbush who let Nozéro produce the record himself.

"It's the first time I had free rein," says Nozéro. "No producer over my head. Consequently, what you hear is Larry Nozéro, no contrived music somebody thought would be right for me. It's been very well-received. Radio stations in Detroit and Ann Arbor have picked up on it much more than I anticipated."

Nozéro's career as a reed man in jazz spans almost 20 years spent in the Detroit area and on the road. He's played sax, flute and clarinet with bands such as the Henry Mancini Orchestra, Sergio Mendes, Johnny Mathis, even an extended tour with country music's Roger Miller when he was riding the crest of his biggest hit, "King of the Road."

Nozéro's saxophone playing can be heard at the beginning of Marvin Gaye's Motown million-seller, "What's Goin' On." It was one of many studio sessions Nozéro played at Motown before owner Berry Gordy

relocated studios in Los Angeles. Nozéro, 37, cherishes memories like the time he backed up Ella Fitzgerald at the Elmswood Casino in Windsor.

"I idolized her," Nozéro says. "We had a 20-minute conversation that I'll never forget. That woman has class and I'm not even talking about the stacks," said the judge.

NOZÉRO TRIES to play down the name-dropping and steers the conversation into the present tense.

He and his quartet have been working six days a week lately, at a time when most professional musicians are forced to juggle a daytime job with their avocation just to make ends meet.

The other three members of the Larry Nozéro Quartet are Todd Caplan on piano, Ned Mann on bass and Jonathan Perez on drums. When the quartet went to the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland last year for the second straight year, Nozéro and his sidemen rented a car to take a side trip.

They went to Pranzalito to look up an aunt, an uncle and two cousins Nozéro never met.

"I turned out my uncle was a musician," Nozéro said. "He plays the piano and the chromatic button accordion. So we played. They couldn't speak English and we couldn't speak Italian."

"Then my uncle brought out all this music he'd written. I'm familiar with the way that music is written, which delighted my uncle."

"We're still talking about that today — the way we played and smiled at each other. We found a way to communicate with music, the universal language."

Every Monday in July, the group will play at Maxwell's in the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn. They're also booked at the Wednesday Pjazz concert June 9 at Detroit's Ponchartrain Hotel.

## Penny-wise, pound-foolish Judge blasts court budget

By M.B. Dillon Ward staff writer

"Insufficient funds" are an increasingly common entry on the dockets of 47th District Court.

Encouraging Michael Hand says budget cuts imposed on the court show that the city is trying to save money in the wrong places.

The term aptly capsulizes District Judge Michael Hand's description of the judicial ledger.

The court's current budget is \$318,903. The city manager has allotted \$366,892, a modest increase, for the 1982-83 fiscal year. Hand, along with Chief Judge Margaret Schaefer, requested \$406,450 for the coming fiscal year.

"Jury fees are budgeted annually at about \$5,000," Hand says. "A six-percent jury costs us \$90 per day plus mileage.

"We require 40-60 jurors per term (two months), so we go through \$5,000 like a hot knife through butter. By the end of the fiscal year, we'll be \$2,000 over our budget.

"We're operating on bare bones now," he said. "It's a penny-wise and pound-foolish economy."

THE 40-YEAR-OLD court building is another sore spot in the budget. The building has been re-roofed three times and until recently had no fire protection system.

Since the City Council's recent OK, the city has been taking bids to replace the court's roofing and a new security system is in operation.

Hand maintains, however, that the improvements should have been made three years ago.

"When the building was revamped in 1979, the roof could have been replaced for \$30,000. Now it'll cost over \$50,000," he says.

"We could have installed a sprinkler system then — the cost now is astronomical. If we had a fire, this building would go up like tinder," he added.

"They hedge on things they shouldn't. It's foolish economy."

INADEQUATE PERSONNEL is a third problem plaguing the court, according to Hand. Despite a 25 percent increase in the court's caseload in 1981, the staff has not increased.

"What we're seeing in this community is a marked increase in breaking and entering, which cover thefts and burglaries," Hand says. "The police officers are stretched, so they're bringing those in by the stacks," said the judge.

The deluge has rendered the court so short-staffed this year that other cases are jamming the court files.

"We just don't have the man power

**"When the building was revamped in 1979, the roof could have been replaced for \$30,000. Now it'll cost over \$50,000. We could have installed a sprinkler system then — the cost now is astronomical. If we had a fire, this building would go up like tinder. They hedge on things they shouldn't. It's foolish economy."**

— Judge Michael Hand

er we need to remove them," Hand said.

Further taxing the court's resources is a heavy load of remanded cases to

district court from circuit court. Remanded cases are determined by circuit court to fall under district court jurisdiction because they involve

\$10,000 or less.

"Our statute says circuit court shall pay jury fees for remanded cases. But they're refusing to," said Hand, who is ignoring the cases until the matter is settled on appeal to a higher court.

"I've got 85 of those cases sitting right there," he said, pointing to a stack of files. "I don't like to see litigants get hurt, but why should the people of Farmington or Farmington Hills be bearing the court's expenses?"

"Either I don't try any jury cases until next year, or I go over the budget, which is against the law. I don't plan on going to jail."

Hand characterizes costs incurred by the jury system utilized by district courts in Oakland County as a necessary evil.

"Our system is cumbersome and costly, but it's the best one we've got," he says.

## Top pay: \$26,058 Cops get 9.5-percent boost

By M.B. Dillon Ward staff writer

Farmington Hills police will receive at least a 9.5-percent pay raise in a three-year contract recently approved by City Council.

Officers will receive a 6.5-percent increase immediately, which is retroactive to July 1, 1981. An additional 3 percent goes into effect July 1, bringing the starting rate to \$18,100 and the maximum after three years to \$26,058.

Under the previous contract, starting pay was \$16,500.

Wages effective July 1, 1983, remain open for negotiations.

Police officers made the biggest inroads in the areas of disability and pension. Despite the gains, Farmington Hills police have a pension plan that does not match those of their counterparts throughout metro Detroit, according to Carl Parsell, executive director of the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM).

"I'd say on a scale from one to 10 with one being the best, Farmington Hills is a 12," he said. "Their pension system started out when they were a township. When townships were formed, they didn't maintain employees over a long period of time. Pensions weren't the priority.

"Now the cities are maturing — and Farmington Hills isn't going to disap-

pear — they're going to find out that it's better to keep employees. It's better for the city."

Before this contract, employees retiring due to disability received no compensation from the city for health insurance, said Edmund Wozniak, vice president of the Farmington Hills Police Officers Association.

Under the new agreement, the city will pay one half of disabled retirees' Blue Cross premiums to a maximum of \$50 per month, while disability retirement pay will increase from 40 to 50 percent of the monthly wage at the time disability occurred.

Other provisions of the contract include:

- Increased life insurance, from \$35,000 to \$50,000.

- Reduced Blue Cross master medical coverage (the cost of Blue Cross coverage for city employees jumped 52 percent May 10).

- Elimination of optical insurance coverage.

- Relaxation of the residency requirement from 15 to 25 miles from city hall.

Parsell said that in most cities and townships it is the non-police workers who are suffering the greatest inequities.

"We represent some non-police employees who in the past have not wanted to be unionized, and they're very

poorly paid," Parsell said. "A lot of the workers are females who are not getting equal opportunities of going ahead. They're waking up to the fact that they have no upward mobility."

"Males are being brought in from the outside to take over in supervisory jobs."

Female employees making \$8,000, 9,000 and \$10,000 are being handed olive branches by their employers, Parsell said.

"They're being told, 'You'll be getting a 6-percent raise, just like everyone else.' The difference is that the mayor is getting his \$40,000 salary hiked 6 percent. Female workers get 6 percent of \$8,000, \$9,000 or \$10,000."

Parsell has received phone calls from Farmington Hills employees in that situation, but said POAM was unable to help them out while negotiating the police officers' contract.

"That contract is behind us, so we'd be willing to take them (non-police workers) on now," Parsell said.

Farmington Hills' \$25,299 maximum salary compares to \$23,048 in Northville; \$25,004 in Livonia; \$25,378 in Plymouth and Plymouth Township; \$26,000 in Grosse Pointe Farms, and \$26,500 in Sterling Heights.

Wage concessions were agreed to in Pontiac, Woodhaven and by the Wayne County Sheriff's Department.

## 2 bits Farmington budget takes a slight dip

By Craig Piechura staff writer

The average Farmington taxpayer will pay 25 cents less tax to city government in the coming fiscal year under the proposed budget, according to City Manager Robert Deadman.

"Assuming the assessed valuation on his home is \$30,000 and last year's millage rate was 11.25 mills, Joe Taxpayer paid \$394 last year to the city and in the coming year he'll pay \$393.75," Deadman said.

The total budget for the city of Farmington in fiscal year 1981-82 was \$4,368,115 and the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year is \$4,312,865.

City officials must, by state law, adopt a budget by the first Monday in June. The budget comes up for adoption that day, June 7, at the next scheduled council meeting.

Nobody commented on the proposed

budget during the public hearing held last Monday in council chambers. Mayor Alton Bennett said he's seen more figures change in mid-year budget adjustments than the change in this year's budget over last year's.

"Now the cities are maturing and will rise if the schools' one-mill increment request passes."

Under the 1982 "Truth in Taxation" act adopted by the Legislature, millage rates levied last year must be rolled back in exact proportion to the average city-wide increase of the year's assessed valuation of property.

The Michigan Tax Commission is presently haggling with Oakland County officials over the method Oakland County assessors use to determine market value of property.

OAKLAND COUNTY based county-wide assessments on a three-month average of home sales. The state says the

formula should be based on a 30-month market study of sales.

If the state wins the dispute, which appears headed for court, Farmington will be forced to roll back its millage rate to keep pace with the increased assessed valuation of property.

The county says property increased in value by 1 percent in the three-month period. The state says the increase should be 5.99 percent.

Because the city budget isn't increasing at a time of inflation, Deadman said the municipal library and recreation department won't be getting near what those department heads requested. The library commission wanted a

17.7 percent increase in the local funding and is expected to receive 4 percent increase.

Wages for library employees, Deadman said, will be less than planned, fewer mailings will be sent and requested equipment will have to wait.

In the recreation budget, the belt-tightening will be evident if the city implements its plan to charge teams a fee to use municipal baseball diamonds.

No local road repair will be paid by the city, Deadman says, due to the continued decline in state gas and weight taxes.

## Girl struck on bicycle

A 9-year-old Farmington girl was listed in fair condition in the intensive care unit of Children's Hospital Tuesday after she was hit by a car on Grand River Monday evening.

The accident occurred, according to police reports, when Tracy Lynde Podsiaduk, 9, drove her bicycle off the sidewalk into Grand River in front of a car driven by Diane R. Hoffman, 17, of Southfield.

The incident occurred in front of the Silver Dairy ice cream stand on Grand River, south of Power at 7:04 p.m.

Monday. Podsiaduk had just bought an ice cream cone at the stand.

She is being treated for head injuries at the hospital and is conscious, with no vital signs, according to hospital officials.

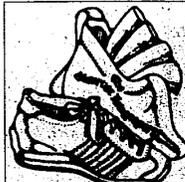
No ticket was issued to the driver because witnesses reported that the driver had no chance to swerve to avoid the collision.

"The little girl was not looking where she was going and went off the curb into the street," said one witness, John Platko.

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