

# Township Instructs Attorney To Ask Return Of \$1,500

**FARMINGTON**  
The Farmington Township Board has instructed its attorney to collect \$1,500 reimbursement in legal fees paid by the township to Noel Gage, attorney retained by the Farmington Township Police Officers Association (POA).

The township paid the \$1,500 to Gage for defending Patrolman John Hedrick, POA President, who was found innocent of an assault

and battery charge in Southfield District Court.

**SUPERVISOR** Earl Teeples asked that reimbursement be requested since the payment was made illegally. The board agreed and instructed Joseph T. Brennan, township attorney, to ask for the money back.

Brennan had earlier given a legal opinion that the township could not legally pay a attorney fees for the defense of a criminal charge made against a township police officer. Legal costs can only be paid by the township for defense of a civil charge and not criminal, Brennan said.

The opinion was given when the board was asked to pay a bill from Gage for the successful defense of Patrolman William Sonnenberg Jr.

Sonnenberg was found innocent of second degree murder in a pre-trial examination.

**BRENNAN ADMITTED** that payment of Hedrick's legal fees was not legal. He added he was not asked for a legal opinion when the \$1,500 was paid last year.

Brennan wrote Teeples on Dec. 16 and stated the township "has valid cause for action to recover the money

paid" to Gage. Teeples asked the board to instruct Brennan to ask for the money to be returned and to begin legal action if it is not.

**TRUSTEE** Earl Oppertthausen stated he did not disagree with Brennan's legal opinion but did disagree with the law.

"It is sad that we defend

people accused of crimes with good cause who are convicted, and we pay for their defense. Yet, Hedrick and Sonnenberg are exonerated and we can't pay. The same situation applies to Cpl. Thomas Godwin."

Godwin was also found innocent of a second degree murder charge at the pre-trial examination.

In Wayne County alone, Oppertthausen adds, \$2.5 million a year is spent to defend persons accused of crimes. "I'll have something to present to the board in the near future in this regard," he added.

Oppertthausen made the motion instructing Brennan to attempt to recover the \$1,500, and the motion passed 7-0.

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## Residents Earn WSU Degrees

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Twenty-three Farmington residents received degrees from Wayne State University at winter graduation ceremonies held recently in Cobo Hall.

Those receiving bachelor degrees are Rita M. Svabeda of 26429 Greythorne; Mrs. Hildegard McCaleb of 33712 Glenview; Mrs. Lynne S. Salzman of 25010 Springbrook; Paul E. Van Dorpe of 23700 Elly Ct.; and Michael J. McIntosh of 32245 Hearstone. Also: Andrea S. Bronson of 27854 Echo Valley; Joel V.

Weinstock of 31949 Olde Franklin Dr.; Mustafa Y. Odeh of 28458 Cumberland;

Ronald G. Meredith of 20773 Hugo; Gary D. Hotchkiss of 34605 Bridgeman; James D. Mines of 29075 Haggerty; and George C. Kemsley of 32521 Sprucewood.

Those receiving master's degrees are: Gary A. Faber of 34571 Lytle; Norman J. Eisenberg of 28815 Summerwood; Elizabeth J. Chase of 25247 Branchester Rd.; William C. Bozgan of 28900 Hawberry; Charles J. Balog of 31530 Alameda; and Mrs. Mary J. Wagner of 30301 W. 13 Mile Rd.

Also: David A.J. Pollock of 29966 S. Stockton Dr.; Norbert L. Keller of 21614 Mayfield Rd.; Jimmy L. Haugen of 29741 Fernhill Dr.; Richard M. Young of 34435 W. Nine Mile; Jack C. Sweatt of 22698 Power; Mrs. Gloria J. Stewick of 26100 Barbados; and LeRoy A. Heinz of 20939 Meadowlark.

And: Anthony A. Haisch of 32496 Chesterbrook; William S. Hoffman of 27900 W. Nine Mile; Mrs. Valeria M. Petroni of 28715 Oak Point Dr.; Daniel L. Elliott of 20918 Botsford Dr.; Elizabeth R. Adams of 33101 N. Manor Dr.; John L. Mallory of 24596 Lincoln; and Paul C. Jacobs of 31985 Olde Franklin Dr.

### In Construction

**FARMINGTON**  
Navy Construction Recruit Randall L. Souliere, of 22232 Glenn Cove, Farmington, is serving with Mobile Construction Battalion 74 in Vietnam.

### On Dean's List

**FARMINGTON**  
Virginia L. Flandt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Williams Parons of Farmington, has been named to the dean's list for the fall term at Northwestern Institute of West Baden, Ind.

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