

the farmington enterprise & observer

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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today's hot line

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what's inside

When Cityhood?

The Farmington Township Board is expected to make a decision Monday night, Jan. 25, on which of two possible alternatives will be best to take in the township's quest for cityhood. The alternatives are explained in a complete report.

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Good Beginning

The Farmington Area YMCA started its campaign drive to raise \$15,000 locally and on the first day pledges for \$5,000 were received. You can now be one of 10,000 residents to kick in a buck.

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Only Inside

The city has a special plan to honor those who beautify the community, the township board is organizing into committees to gather facts, a dog named Skippy is separated and reunited with his owners of 14 years, and the city plans to pave three major roads. These stories can be found only by leafing through the inside pages of today's Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

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How You Can Help

Women who want to help control drugs were given some specific suggestions last week by a man who knows the situation. The story is in the Women's Section.

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Brian Sprague Honored As Outstanding Educator

A 26-year-old Vietnam veteran, Brian Sprague, was the 1970 selection for Outstanding Young Educator (OYE) in Farmington.

The choice of Sprague, fifth grade teacher at Longacre Elementary in Farmington, was announced Monday at the Community Leadership Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees.

The award was presented to Sprague by Johannes Spreen, former Detroit police commissioner, who was guest speaker at the breakfast held in the Danish Inn.

SPRAGUE, married and living in Livonia, in 1967 received an award from the John F. Kennedy Memorial Fund for outstanding volunteer service to the youth of metropolitan Detroit.

He served as a first lieutenant in the U. S. Army in Vietnam in 1968-69 and was awarded the Army commendation medal and bronze star for outstanding military service.

Walter Jablonski, principal at Longacre, says Sprague "stimulates his students by making learning relevant to their present as well as future needs." "He involves himself with his students. The class functions as a team with Mr. Sprague serving as the catalytic agent. This does not just happen. This takes a great amount of planning and effort," continued Jablonski.

IN ANNOUNCING the OYE choice, Lee Arthurs explained:

"The aims of the project are to better acquaint the community with its young educators, ages 21-35, and their problems, and to honor one teacher who is doing an exceptionally fine job."

Arthurs, Jaycee director of the OYE project, added that Sprague's "outstanding teaching characteristics and services to the community are many."

"The failure of our country lies in its youth and the education they receive. By recognizing outstanding work in the education field of our community, we hope to encourage all teachers to continue their work with very high standards."

SPRAGUE GRADUATED from Redford High School in 1962 and received a degree from Michigan State University in 1967 with emphasis upon social science, science, English and communications.

After graduation from MSU, Sprague spent the next two years in the Army and then joined the faculty at Longacre Elementary in Farmington.

While attending MSU, Sprague was selected with 10 other elementary education seniors at MSU to participate in six months of training the disadvantaged.

He took all the classes in the Franklin Elementary School in Detroit's inner-city. The program was funded by the Mott Institute for Community Improvement and supervised by Dr. Hugh Scott who recently was selected director of Public Education in Washington, D. C.

The nomination of Sprague was made by Mrs. Shirley Richardson, president of the Longacre Elementary PTA. He is an Eagle Scout and a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

MASTER OF ceremonies at Monday's Prayer Breakfast was Patrick Nowak, past president of the Michigan Jaycees and a Farmington resident.

Invocation was given by Farmington Township Supervisor Earl Teeples followed by a musical interlude by the Max Davey Chorus.

The award to Sprague followed welcoming remarks by Frank Hill, Farmington Jaycee president. New Testament scripture reading was given by Farmington District Judge Michael J. Hand

and an Old Testament reading by Mayor Wilber Brotherton, City of Farmington.

Following Spreen's address, the benediction was pronounced by Mayor Brotherton. About 95 community leaders were present at the fourth annual breakfast.

THE EVENT was the kickoff for Jaycee Week which is being observed Jan. 17-23 in Farmington.

Proclamations observing Jaycee Week have been passed in Farmington Township, the City of Farmington, and by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

"The Farmington Area Jaycees would like to thank all the people in the community who have participated in our fund-raising activities to make our many service projects possible," says Hill.

Among the many local JC projects are: lights for the ball diamond in City Park; ice shelter; promoting the bond issue for swimming pools and auditoriums at two of the high schools; donated playground equipment for Drake Road Park; community directory; Easter Egg hunt; Junior Champ; Haunted House; and Christmas tree sale.



OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR — Johannes Spreen congratulates Brian Sprague (right) who has been named Outstanding Young Educator of 1970 in Farmington. Sprague was announced as the OYE recipient at the Monday morning Jaycee Prayer Breakfast in the Danish Inn.

Dr. Clark Now Facing Murder Charge Exam

Dr. Ronald E. Clark, former Farmington Township physician, will face a first-degree murder charge when he walks into Detroit Recorder's Court Wednesday, Jan. 27, for his pre-trial examination.

Recorder's Judge James McNally III dropped the earlier manslaughter charge against Clark after a lengthy pre-trial exam and asked for a first-degree murder warrant.

THE WAYNE COUNTY prosecutor's office on Friday, Jan. 15, issued the warrant charging Clark with first-degree murder in the March 1967 death of Mrs. Hannah Bowerbank.

The prosecution was asking for a manslaughter conviction against Clark for the Bowerbank death but Judge McNally stated the evidence presented indicated a "felonious purpose" may have been involved.

Clark is being charged with having caused Mrs. Bowerbank's death by an injection of sodium pentothal, the "truth serum." Mrs. Bowerbank was Clark's office manager at time of her death.

JUDGE McNALLY said the evidence in the Bowerbank examination, concluded this month, did not point to the legal requirements for manslaughter — either an act of passion or a lawful act committed for unlawful intent.

Clark's defense attorney, James Wells, says he welcomes the murder charge because the trial will "decide whether the doctor was dispensing death from his office or if the vicious rumors should be laid to rest once and for all."

sodium pentothal in their bodies.

THE ALLEGED WEB of events detailed in the manslaughter pre-trial examination by Avery Weiswasser, assistant Wayne County prosecutor, follows:

Mrs. Bowerbank left her Detroit home in the morning to drop clothes off at the cleaners in Farmington and to buy gifts for her mother. Mrs. Ellen Winsper wanted her to purchase with \$50.

She dropped the clothes off at the cleaners and allegedly dropped by Clark's office on Grand River where she died, cause of death being attributed to sodium pentothal according to the prosecution;

Dr. Clark places Mrs. Bowerbank's body in her automobile, a 1964 Plymouth Fury, and drives to her Detroit home along with Mrs. Grace Neil, his nurse.

Clark reaches Mrs. Bowerbank's residence, drives the car into the garage, removes the body to an upstairs bedroom and drives the car out of the garage and parks it in the driveway about 15 minutes after arriving.

Mrs. Winsper asks Clark and Mrs. Neil where her daughter is and is told she is ill and resting in the upstairs bedroom.

Later that evening, Clark calls the funeral home to have Mrs. Bowerbank's body removed. A nephew, George Bowerbank of Livonia, is called and comes to the house. Clark reports Mrs. Bowerbank died of a heart attack and the nephew informs Mrs. Winsper.

The following November, Mrs. Neil dies and Clark signs her death certificate attributing death to a heart failure. Police discover Mrs. Neil died from an overdose of sodium pentothal and Ellen Clark with manslaughter.

While in prison, the state and Clark filed a lawsuit making a claim on the \$30,000 estate of Mrs. Bowerbank.

Following Mrs. Neil's death, Mrs. Bowerbank's body was exhumed and lab tests show traces of sodium pentothal in her brain.

Some observers believe the second manslaughter charge, issued more than three years after Mrs. Bowerbank's death, was made to prevent or delay Clark's early release.

Weiswasser theorizes that

Mrs. Neil died because she was the only eye-witness to the death of Mrs. Bowerbank.

Clark is now serving his sentence for the death of Mrs. Neil but could be released on good behavior in June.

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Russell Barnes Slated At The Center

Russell Barnes will bring his wide experience and diversified background in foreign news analysis to Farmington when he begins a six-week series in international relations in the Farmington Community Center beginning Jan. 28.

His course will cover a wide spectrum of inter-relations between nations, using current events as a springboard. Barnes has been a columnist and analyst for the Detroit News and has held government assignments in the Office of War Information covering epoch-making conferences in Cairo and Teheran.

He has been director in the psychological warfare branch commanding some 4,600 army men as civilians in North Africa, Italy, the Balkans and southern France. For his wartime work, he received the war department's Exceptional Civilian Service emblem.

Following World War II, he covered the United Nations' conferences in New York and London as well as the Paris Peace Conference.

An outstanding, and much sought-after lecturer, Barnes has written extensively on political, social and economic topics as they relate to the countries of Europe and the Near East.

Some additional registrations for this lecture series will be accepted at the center by calling 474-6873 or 474-2290.

Otis Memorial Is On Sunday

A special memorial service will be held for Henry A. Otis on Sunday, Jan. 24, at 10:15 a. m. in the Salem Evangelical Church on Oakland Ave. in the City of Farmington.

Mr. Otis, 60, the last of the pioneer Otis family in Farmington, died Jan. 13 in Sarasota, Fla., where he had moved five years ago to spend his retirement years.

A RESIDENT of Farmington since birth, he owned and operated a Mobil service station for 32 years at Grove and Grand River, the present site of Federal's Dept. Store.

Mr. Otis once owned all the property where Federal's is now located and also once owned Farmington Lumber Co. which he sold The Otis family had been residents of Farmington for over 70 years.

Amos Otis, Henry's father, was a building contractor in Michigan and one of his first accomplishments was completion of the Salem Evangelical and Reformed Church in Farmington in 1875.

Henry Otis was a World War II veteran and a member of Farmington American Legion Post 346 for 26 years. He attended St. John Military Academy and Culver Military Academy.

HE HAD BUILT many summer homes, one of which is an A-frame located in Cedarville where he and his wife spent the summer months. He had recently completed a new home in Sarasota.

His first wife, the late Gladys Landesman Otis, was a school teacher in Farmington Public Schools for many years.

Survivors include: wife, Suzanne; daughter, Marcia Barrett; stepson, Army Capt. L.H. Foubare III; brothers, Howard and George; sister, Mrs. Virginia Percy; and two grandchildren.

The memorial service Sunday will immediately follow the regular 10:15 service. Officiating will be the Rev. Carl Schultz, pastor at Salem.



HENRY A. OTIS



RUSSELL BARNES

WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOME!



Your January 23-24 Weekend Observer will include a special HOME SECTION filled with ideas for your home.

LOOK FOR IT!