

Farmington
ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER

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Subscription Rates: \$5.00 per year in advance. Single copies 10¢.

Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc., 2930 Farmington Road, Farmington, Michigan 48334. Second-class postage paid at Farmington, Michigan. Postmaster: Please send address changes to Observer Newspapers, Inc., 2930 Farmington Road, Farmington, Michigan 48334.

What's Behind New Township 'Frisk' Step?

Without much discussion of the issue or even the idea, Farmington Township residents are now equipped with what is commonly called a "stop and frisk" ordinance. A draft ordinance landed on the Township Board table last Monday night and was adopted without any fanfare. Township Trustee Earl Opperthausen introduced the measure. Incidentally, Opperthausen is one of five candidates for the newly created local post of D district Judge.

The action follows the U.S. Supreme Court ruling upholding such laws and amidst much talk about a similar ordinance in Detroit. The City of Dearborn has had the law on the books since Jan. 1968.

WHILE WE DON'T QUARREL with the basic concept of stop and frisk laws, we do question the specific need for such an ordinance in Farmington Township at this particular time.

One of the Dearborn Policemen told this paper that Dearborn's law was "nothing new. This is something that police have been doing for years," he added.

He's right. Under the terms of the township ordinance a police officer may stop a person only when "a person acts in a manner and under circumstances which would cause a police officer to reasonably believe, while exercising reasonable care, that such actions indicate criminal behavior."

About searching a person for weapons—policemen have always searched an individual if they thought the possibility existed that someone was carrying a weapon. That's just the basic law of self preservation.

editorial

So why the rush?

The township officials said that the matter had been discussed previously. If it was, then it was during one of the closed door sessions which the township officials are so fond of to settle any and all issues that might face the township.

It's entirely possible that the township establishment discussed the matter thoroughly. However, it was never discussed during a public meeting of the township board.

Why?

The answer to that question remains hidden.

HOWEVER, there is an interesting line which can be drawn between the actions and the development of what is shaping up to be the hottest local political race this year.

That's the contest for district judge.

Any local official has an obligation and a duty to continue to perform as an active official until he leaves office. Since Opperthausen holds his seat on the board until November he would be derelict in not participating in the actions and decisions necessary.

It is intriguing, however, that suddenly an ordinance is proposed and adopted. This is contrary to the official policy. Usually the board will refer items to a committee. They also refer any ordinance to Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan for review.

Brennan wasn't present at Monday's meeting—although a member of his firm was. The question of consulting the township attorney was never mentioned.

Dearborn police say that their law has been used "three or four" times since its enactment six months ago. Dearborn is bigger than Farmington Township.

Dearborn has many sidewalks—the township has few.

Dearborn has a huge plant which operates 24 hours a day. The township has not hing even approaching this.

Is there a need in the township for a law that has, in the words of the Dearborn policeman, "suddenly become a conversation piece"?

If there is a need, is it so urgent that the usual "deliberate" (that's a favorite word of township officials) process was not followed?

These are interesting questions? What's your answer?

—Sue Shaughnessy

Bronson Hits At Medical Licensing

S. JEROME BRONSON, the duly elected prosecuting attorney of Oakland County, seized upon the recent manslaughter conviction of Dr. Ronald Elwyn Clark to announce that he was urging legislators "to focus attention on strengthening Michigan medical licensing procedures."

He said that at present these procedures "are not adequately protecting citizens" and then added:

"Michigan medical licensing procedures have too often not protected the public and are badly in need of overhaul. Medical licensing and review has proved sloppy and must be corrected."

Bronson told this writer that he will pursue the issue with Oakland County members of the legislature, and that he also will confer with Attorney General Frank Kelley on the matter within the next two weeks.

If Bronson really persists, the legislation he seeks could well be introduced at next year's session of the legislature, but don't bet on it. Even if it is passed, it may not be a certainty. Members of the medical profession themselves would have to join Mr. Bronson's bandwagon to engender real enthusiasm in Lansing for tightening restrictive controls, and that may not be an easy flame to ignite.

DR. IRVIN J. KURTZ, medical director of Redford Community Hospital, is the current president of the Michigan Medical Association.

DR. CLARK was arrested on an assault and battery misdemeanor charge in 1959. He was found guilty by a justice of the peace, but this verdict was reversed in Circuit Court where it was ruled the evidence did not support the charge. He was arrested again on Oct. 4, 1962, charged with practicing medicine without a license. On March 22, 1963 he entered a plea of guilty before Circuit Judge William J. Beer in Pontiac and Judge Beer placed him on one year's probation. On Sept. 22, 1965 Dr. Clark was arrested and charged with taking indecent liberties with a minor female. The case originated in Huron County, but after the physician had been sent over to Circuit Court the prosecution was dropped when the complaint was withdrawn.

If reference in that saga to Judge Beer rings a bell of familiarity, it's because it will be the same William John Beer who passes sentence next Thursday afternoon when Dr. Clark steps before the bar of justice, judged by a jury of his peers to have committed manslaughter.

When Prosecutor Bronson said Michigan medical licensing procedures "have too often not protected the public," the foregoing is part of what he had in mind.

FARMINGTON

THRU ... BIFOCALS

By FRED DELANO

For An Old-Fashioned Drive

Nine Mile Offers Rural Serenity

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

If you're old-fashioned enough to still enjoy a Sunday ride—and don't like to slash past beautiful countryside at 70 miles an hour on an expressway—may we suggest a quiet meander down Nine Mile Rd. past Gill.

Allow lots of time, because Nine Mile, which begins far east over at Lake St. Clair, wanders west until it deadends at East Shore Rd. at Whitmore Lake near Ann Arbor.

THE ROAD stretches 60 miles, but nowhere is it as restful and peaceful as it is west of Farmington.

In Summer Program FARC Enrolls 1,000

Approximately 1,000 children have been registered for the Farmington Area Recreation Committee's summer program, currently in progress on eight Farmington school playgrounds.

With the count expected to reach 1,500 youngsters by season's end, the FARC is considering future enlargement of the program to include other age groups and more playground sites.

To participate in the present program, children must be between the ages of eight and 15.

A total of 245 children from the northern section of the program visited the Detroit Zoo several weeks ago. Southern section youngsters will make the trek to the Zoo July 12.

On July 6, 289 south section children attended a Tiger ballgame. North section tots will witness a ballgame on July 20 and are advised to bring sandwiches and thermos bottles.

A field day for all playground sites is scheduled for July 26. Children will compete in planned competitive sports individually and as teams. Prizes will be donated by local merchants.

A trip to Bob-Loo Island will end the program on Aug. 2. Parents are invited to accompany their children. Registration blanks at playgrounds provided information on bus departure, arrival and cost.

IT'S ALL a trifle complicated and doesn't in the least affect the tranquil beauty of Nine Mile Rd. as it travels through Oakland County.

Even within the city boundaries, Nine Mile is one of the prettiest streets in town where it dips into the Rouge River near Grand River. There, the roadway curves in gentle arcs beneath ancient trees that lend it a serene beauty.

THE SAME SERENITY can be felt on a Sunday drive along the length of Nine Mile, where there is no traffic to fight, no litter to bespoil the view and no roadside advertising to mar the landscape.

Canterbury Commons

By JOANNE TAKAI, 626-1786

Thursday, July 4, turned out to be a beautiful day for the second annual Independence Day Celebration in the Commons. The children with their decorated bikes and some very well done floats had their parade around the streets of the Commons and then back to the park where many people had assembled for the awards and the flag ceremony.

The flag was raised by Jack Williamson's Webelos den from Pack 48, and the bugle was played by Tom Takai of Boy Scout Troop 48.

The first prize for the six and under group was awarded to David, Cathy, and Jeanie DuFreese, who were all dressed as Indians, and they had a wagon pulling a tepee. In the 7 to 12 age group, there was a lot of originality shown by a junior Betsy Ross on a float with the American flag history on a card attached to the float. Will this Betsy Ross give us a call, so that we might put her name in the paper as a prize winner?

The Fernhill Firecrackers put on a great show on their float as a group of Gay Nineties musicians. It was their first prize in the 12 and over group float. The Grand Prize for the best float was won by Roddy McKay, Melanie and Eric Schmauch, for a very imaginative float portraying the Boston Tea Party.

WE WISH to thank everyone who worked on any committee or with the committee chairman. We were all very proud of our residents and very pleased at the wonderful turnout and the beautiful floats. General chairman Don Lumders had many helpers in planning and turning out such a grand event.

Some of these were: the Martinsons, the Pasfields, the Fishmans, the Bradfords, the Haugens, Mary Smith, Bob Taylor, Arlene Bittner, Geneva Applebaum, Marie Campbell, Lou Schellmal, Sharna DuFreese, Joe Said, Ed LaVanya, Chuck Wenzel, and two Farmington Township Policemen, Sergeant Newell, and Lt. Schreiber. Thanks to everyone for making the day such a success!

Marie and Harold Campbell, of Club House Lane, recently gave a post-graduation party for their son John, who graduated from North Farmington High. Forty people were on hand to congratulate John and wish him well when he starts at Oakland University next fall.

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