

Farmington Enterprise & Observer

Vol. 81, No. 102

Sunday, September 14, 1969

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

38 pages, 4 sections

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Philip H. Power, Publisher

today's
hot line

what's inside

Homeowners Protest

A capacity crowd turned out for the public hearing conducted by the Farmington Township Planning Commission and made its presence felt in protesting the proposed new plan for apartment development.

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Engineer Honored

James Dulzo, 33200 Raphael, started studies as an engineering student and wound up by winning the top prize for fiction writing at the University of Michigan. It was a strange jump but read how he accomplished it.

Page 2A

Charter Confusion?

City Councilman John Allen has sounded a warning to the city electorate not to be confused by the voting on the proposed charter. He says the first vote will be the decisive one — but he's wrong. Read both sides.

Page 2A

Big Scores

Bowlers in Observerland are chalking up the highest scores they've ever recorded. Read W. W. Edgar's exclusive column, In The Pocket, on the sports page.

Page 4B

Hoist Sails!

Hoist the sails for the race! Why people enjoy the art of sailing is examined along with a review of a funny new movie now showing in Observerland... information on two different dances... an art competition... and the casting sessions for an upcoming community theater production on today's Amusements Page.

Page 5B

Unauthorized Look

Usually, fashion shows are staffed by models clothed in the finest that a store or designer can pick out for the press to see. In real life, however, high school kids dress differently — as we show in this unauthorized look at several Observerland schools since dress codes were relaxed.

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Can We Do It?

Everyone complains that cities and suburbs are unbalanced in tax bases, dull, badly planned. Someone's trying to do something about it, but the social and political questions are: Can it be done?

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"At least 60 or 70 calls. . ."

... We're simply amazed with all the calls and quick results. We sold the house two days after the ad appeared," said Mrs. B. Ruginis. Use Observer Want Ads for quick results.

NORTHVILLE area. 3 1/2 acre, tri-level, 2 car attached garage, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, family room, gas heat, \$27,000. Immediate occupancy. 349-0000.

Classified WANT ADS
422-0900

Hedrick Trial Assigned To Court In Southfield

BY WYLLIE GERDES

The jury trial of Farmington Township Patrolman John Hedrick, on a charge of assault

and battery has been set for Sept. 19 at 9 a.m. in the Southfield District Court.

Hedrick stood mute Sept. 10 at his arraignment in Southfield District Court. He is charged with beating John Von Sauers,

of 906 S. Main in Plymouth, after arresting him in Farmington Township on Sept. 9, 1968.

Von Sauers allegedly had a ruptured ear drum after the incident. Von Sauers was found guilty

of unlawfully taking and using an auto and placed on two years probation after the incident.

LAST MONDAY, Sept. 8, Oakland County Prosecutor Thomas Plunkett recommended a warrant be issued for Hedrick. The action came after four months of investigation into five charges of brutality against Hedrick.

The charges against Hedrick were made public during an appeal hearing by Farmington Township Det. Sgt. Earl Teeples.

Teeples had been disciplined for talking to the Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Jim Williams about another brutality charge, which allegedly occurred July 8, 1968. Williams investigated and found four other complaints against Hedrick.

After an appeal board hearing, Teeples was cleared of accusations made by Township Police Chief Irving Yakes. The main allegations were that Teeples created a morale problem and disrupted the force by talking to Williams.

BEFORE the decision was reversed, Teeples was demoted and suspended without pay for two weeks.

However, Hedrick, who is president of the Farmington Police Officers Association, will not be suspended at least until his trial and probably not then. Township Supervisor Curtis Hall told The Enterprise and Observer Hedrick will not be suspended... at least not at this time.

"We'll wait the outcome of the trial," Hall said.

"If this were a felony, it would be an automatic disqualification," Hall added, "...but a misdemeanor is ordinarily not grounds for dismissal."

Evidence exposed in the trial might influence the decision, Hall said.

THE TOWNSHIP Supervisor committed that the complaint is a year old and has been in the hands of the Oakland County Prosecutor's office since May. He refused they appeared to feel no urgency to press the matter.

Assault and battery is a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of 90 days in jail and a \$100 fine.

Commenting on a newspaper report that the township plans to pay Hedrick's defense expenses, Hall said that has "not been determined." Noel Gage, attorney for the Detroit Police Officers Association, is Hedrick's attorney.

The case was transferred to the court of Clarence A. Reid Jr., in Southfield at the request of Farmington's District Judge Michael J. Hand, because he apparently felt the case might affect future court-police relations if it were heard by him.

ANOTHER alleged victim of a beating by Hedrick has filed a \$750,000 civil damage suit against Hedrick, Hall, Yakes and the township.

John Vetowich of 29735 10 Mile Rd., Farmington Township, has charged illegal arrest, excessive force, illegal detention, physical abuse, intimidation and illegal seizure of person.

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court with the claim that the actions violate the Civil Rights Act.

Vetowich was arrested July 28, 1968, by Hedrick and later charged with resisting arrest, being a disorderly person, and careless driving. The resisting arrest and disorderly person charges were dropped, and Vetowich received a suspended sentence after he pleaded guilty to careless driving.

Hedrick allegedly choked and beat Vetowich after confronting him at a service station in Farmington Township. The service station attendants reportedly witnessed the incident.

The U.S. Attorney General's office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation also investigated the charges against Hedrick. The decision on whether Hedrick will be prosecuted under the Civil Rights Act rests with the civil rights section of the Department of Justice.



Two views of conditions on Albion showing stagnant water and culvert pipe



Township Is Charged With Neglect

By ED WENDOVER

"The people who live in Kendallwood, Independence Commons or Lincolnshire wouldn't stand for the way Farmington Township treats its residents who live in the 'lower' section of the township."

Thus spoke Leo Devine of 33031 Albion, in a recent complaint to the Enterprise and Observer. Devine was responding to an article in the Sept. 7 edition which reported the efforts of the township and its zoning inspector, Ralph Bell, in "cleaning up" the low-income areas of the township.

Devine, whose house with new aluminum siding was shown in a photograph in the Sept. 7 article which stated that Bell

had worked with him in dressing up the residence, said "my wife and I have been saving for five years to put that siding on our house. Neither the township nor Bell had anything to do with it."

"If you want to see what the township has really done for us, come out and see the problems that have been here for 15 years that nobody at the township hall has ever done anything about," Devine continued.

HE CITED stagnant water standing in improperly dug ditches, spring flooding and impassable roads as the main complaints of the people in his neighborhood.

"While it is the county's responsibility to correct these problems," Devine maintained, "it is the duty of our elected township officials to alert the county."

The township looks after the subdivisions above 10 Mile Road, Devine asserted, but it

ignores the residents down in Sections 25, 33, 34, 35, and 36.

"Since Mr. Bell's association with the township, we have someone who will at least listen to our phone calls," Devine said, "but it's still true that in 15 years the Farmington Township officials have done nothing for us."

FARMINGTON Township Supervisor Curt Hall, told the

Enterprise and Observer that help is on the way for the low-income areas. He pointed out that "Oakland County is going to change the water flow plan to relieve the problems in these sections and it will be done this fall."

"Farmington Township gave the county an additional \$25,000 this year for maintenance of ditches and gravel roads in the Township and the county has agreed to do this," Hall explained.

But, Devine said, he believed that these funds, like most township expenditures, would be used to benefit the high class neighborhoods more than the low-income areas.

"The township is now starting to move because we're putting pressure on them," Devine said. "The township doesn't like the lower sections of town attracting publicity because it proves the township isn't all high class neighborhoods as the officials would like to think."

"When we ask the township or the county to do something for us, they say there isn't enough money, but they find it easily enough for the other places," Devine concluded.

Two Zoning Changes Made

Two blocks of property in Farmington Heights have been approved for rezoning by the Township Board of Trustees. They are Block A-lots 1-7, 12-18, and 31-40, along with Block B-lots 31-39 inclusive. The rezoning changes the area from residential to office buildings.

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Art Gallery Now Sought In Township

The red brick walls of the auditorium in the new Farmington Township Hall soon may become a circulating art gallery.

This possibility was suggested by Mrs. Margaret Schaeffer, a member of the board of trustees, and approved by her colleagues.

"The beautification committee would like to have something like this," she stated after the meeting, "and now that the trustees like the idea the proper initiative can be extended. It will be something different and should be very nice."

Other township and city officials and members of various

boards and commissions reportedly were aware of the Attorney General's decision before deciding to run.

KELLEY'S OPINION was given in a letter to C. Stuart Francke, chairman of the State Boundary Commission. It was divided into three parts. The first part of the opinion said township employees and officers are included when the statute prohibits municipal officers from holding a charter commission post.

The second part ruled Brennan and Tupper each have filed petitions for one of nine charter commission memberships that are to be named Nov. 4 if voters pass the proposed consolidation of Farmington Township, the City of Farmington and Quakertown.

Neither could be reached for comment.

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