

## today's hot line

Vol. 82, No. 95 22 pages, 2 sections

## what's inside

### The Cocks Return

Daniels Den gives some political advice to Farmington Township incumbents seeking re-election. You'll have to turn inside to find out, but it approximates the adage about roosters coming home to roost.

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### Santa In August

Mention of Santa Claus in August usually would be untimely, but our readers have found Santa appropriate in discussion of local politics. Today's local editorial page has been taken over by our readers who are responding to letters printed in last weekend's Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

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### Minard's Reply

State Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley made a rash statement to Livonia city officials about the sport of kings. Our turf writer, crusty old Doc Minard, takes Shirley right down to the wire in his reply. See Doc's pithy response on

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### Racing Fans

Put mother behind the steering wheel and what happens? She becomes an avid racing fan, that's what.

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### On Hearing

A former television technician is now a researcher in the field of testing the hearing of youngsters who may be retarded. Kathy Moran tells the fascinating story of his work.

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### A Down Payment On Tomorrow



The profit from carrying his newspaper route will stretch a long way for this young man... because every dollar he earns will be a downpayment on tomorrow, a dividend of experience that will pay off for all the tomorrows of his adult life.

There is really no way to scale the value of this kind of growing-up experience, gained and mastered in the formative years that will shape his entire future. He's learning that responsibility and dependability and service are the hallmarks of success. And he's learning that the heights of achievement are limited only by the bounds of his own initiative.

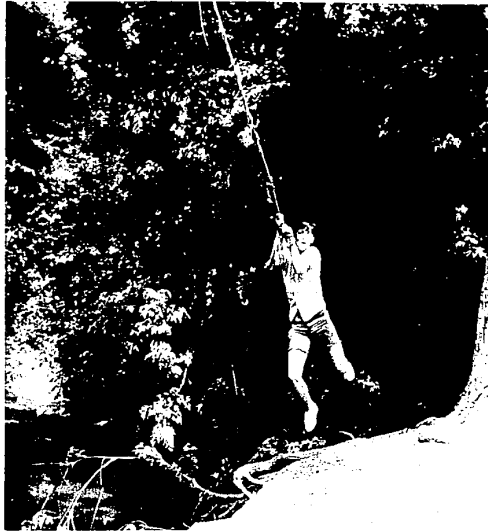
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PHYSICAL FITNESS TESTS -- Farmington youngsters test their physical fitness by swinging Tarzan-style across the Rouge River in City Park at Power and Shiawassee. The strong make it from bank to bank. The weak bathe mid-stream. Shown making the trip without the fanfare is Dave Duda of 30610 Shiawassee. Farmington, who has crossed the river and is swinging around for the return trip. (Evert photo)



WINE CONNOISSEUR — Heinz Wagner, who has traveled all over Europe tasting different wines, recently visited the U.S. and said he's "convinced that Michigan wine and burgundy are as good as those back home." Germany is home for Wagner, who along with his wife

Edith, toured Farmington's La Salle Wine and Champagne Inc. with Fritz Doerflinger, the owner and an old friend. Wagner, an engineer for a telephone company, plans to write a book about his wine experiences once he returns to Germany. (Evert photo)

# Brennan Urges Inquiry Into Police Politics

Farmington Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan has advised the township board to seriously consider conducting an investigation into charges of policemen engaging in political activity.

Brennan rushed off a report to the board on Thursday, Aug. 27, the day after a news story in the Farmington Enterprise & Observer disclosed charges of political activity on behalf of police officers other than Supervisor-Elect Earl Teeples.

BRENNAN'S LETTER includes his interpretation that Farmington Township Patrolman William Hoelt did not violate departmental rules by circulating a nominating petition for Thomas Nolan, trustee running for township treasurer.

Brennan stated that although Hoelt's action in circulating a petition did not "contravene" the police department's political activity rule, it "does

not show good judgment and should be discouraged in the future."

Brennan added that a bumper sticker on Officer Hoelt's car did constitute prohibited political activity, "although a relatively minor thing."

If an investigation establishes that Hoelt did have a bumper sticker on his car, advertising Nolan's candidacy, then Hoelt should be disciplined, explained Brennan.

THE TOWNSHIP'S attorney made a strong recommendation to the trustees that the board conduct an investigation into a bogus letter to the editor, which Brennan described as a most serious charge.

"In fact, 26 officers actually signed a letter to the editor during the campaign, opposing Officer Teeples' nomination, this is a clear violation of the department rule, and appropriate discipline should be imposed on all parties concerned."

However, the pleadings filed and the newspaper story seems to indicate that a number of the officers deny authorizing the publication of the letter.

"I cannot too strongly recommend that a complete investigation be made of this incident, that the persons responsible for this breach of department discipline be determined, and that appropriate action be taken."

IN HIS LETTER to the board, Brennan cleared the high-ranking officer charged with tearing down Teeples campaign signs.

The sign had been nailed to a Detroit Edison pole at 12 Mile and Kendallwood.

Edison employees issued a complaint to the police department, Brennan reports, and an officer removed the sign because it is unlawful to place political signs within the highway right-of-way.

Removal of the sign, said Brennan, did not constitute prohibited political activity but "normal and necessary police activity."

of this office, he will be in violation of this rule and will be subject to removal from the force."

"In the hearing before Judge James Thorburn, we indicated our opinion that permitting one's name to be placed upon the ballot was 'political activity' within the meaning of the rule, there being no such thing as a 'passive' candidate for public office."

IN THAT SAME opinion, Brennan said: "I do not, however, believe that the mere filing of the petitions constitutes prohibited political activity under the department's rules and regulations prior to the date on which withdrawal of those petitions is permitted."

Explaining further, Brennan says: "I must concede that I bent over backwards somewhat in the Teeples case, but if I am to be consistent in my opinions, I would have to rule that the signing and filing of the petitions circulated by Officer Hoelt does not contravene the department rule."

Brennan was responding to an amended complaint filed by attorney Bernard Kahn who is representing Teeples.

KAHN FILED HIS complaint on Tuesday morning, Aug. 25. Brennan was in Oakland County Circuit Court Tuesday representing the township in the boundary lawsuit.

The lawsuit, adjourned Wednesday until Sept. 9, was started by Teeples before the primary election to seek an injunction preventing the township from firing him for what Kahn describes as "the mere filing of a petition."

The actual letter sent to local newspapers was not signed by anyone. Attached to the letter was a list of 26 signatures obtained a year ago during the Teeples Trial Board hearings.

## Classes Set For Adults

Mail registrations are now being accepted for fall adult classes at Farmington schools. Checks payable to Farmington Public Schools should be sent with registration blanks to Farmington Adult Education, 25200 Shiawassee, Farmington, 48024.

Registration will also be accepted on Sept. 8, from 7-9 p.m. at Farmington High School, 32000 Shiawassee.

# Boundary Decision Expected Monday From Judge Ziem

By EMORY DANIELS

A decision on the lawsuit regarding Farmington Area boundaries will be made next week by Oakland County Circuit Judge Frederick Ziem.

Judge Ziem has concluded the boundary trial and will announce next week whether there will be an annexation or cityhood election.

THE TWO-DAY TRIAL ended Thursday afternoon with Ziem hearing concluding arguments from four of the five attorneys involved in the case.

If Ziem rules in favor of the City of Farmington, the judge will instruct the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to begin processing petitions requesting an election to decide on annexing the southern half of the township to the city.

prepare a study on the request.

Attorneys in the lawsuit had filed written briefs with Ziem by July 15. On Tuesday, Aug. 25, the trial began with oral arguments.

First to address the bench Tuesday was Joseph T. Brennan, Farmington Township attorney. Brennan's plea was that the judge allow a cityhood election for the township, preferably through an incorporation vote though a consolidation election would be acceptable.

Next to address Ziem was David Greenspan, attorney for the Future Farmington Association (FFA), a group started by Robert McConnell who last October petitioned for an incorporation vote.

Greenspan's plea was also for a cityhood election with the first preference being the consolidation vehicle and incorporation being acceptable

as an alternative.

CHARLES HACKNEY, assistant attorney general, then presented his arguments to explain the State Boundary Commission's position in denying McConnell's cityhood petitions.

Hackney was followed by Burton Shiffman, Oak Park city attorney who was employed as special legal counsel by the City of Farmington.

Shiffman argued the state was correct in rejecting the township's incorporation petition and asked Judge Ziem to allow the county to make a decision on calling an annexation election.

THE OTHER PARTY in the lawsuit is the Village of Quakertown which joined as an interested party taking a similar position to McConnell, who wants a cityhood vote

through consolidation.

Howard Bond, Quakertown attorney, appeared at Tuesday's trial but did not make oral arguments and did not file any written briefs.

Thursday afternoon, Brennan and Greenspan spoke again to make rebuttals against the arguments of Shiffman and Hackney.

Ziem told the Farmington Enterprise & Observer he hopes to announce his decision during the early part of next week. Issues in the lawsuit are complicated, Ziem admitted, and he saw a certain amount of logic in the arguments of all sides.

Most likely, Judge Ziem will announce his decision Monday because the next day (Sept. 1) he is scheduled to leave for a five-day judicial conference in Boyne Falls, Mich.

placed upon Brennan and Greenspan who, to win, must prove the Boundary Commission erred in rejecting McConnell's cityhood petition.

Ziem's decision is unlikely to resolve the boundary debate in the Farmington Area. It is predictable that the losers will appeal the decision to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

If Ziem upholds McConnell, the Boundary Commission will be ordered to establish public hearings and begin the process to join the entire township and both villages into a home rule city.

The proposed area to be annexed to the city is roughly the southern half of the township — everything south of 10 Mile east of Quakertown and everything south of 11 Mile west of Quakertown.

THE BURDEN of proof is