

Vol. 82, No. 104 44 pages, 4 sections

School Board Approves Site For Drug Counseling Center

By LYNNE LUTHER

A five-month furor over where to locate the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) headquarters ended Monday night when the Board of Education approved a site on the grounds of the Administration Building on Shawasssee. The quarters are needed to get the Drug Rap Line program in operation.

The portable building will be adjacent to the fence of the bus parking lot there with its entrance facing the Administration Building.

IN A SPARSELY crowded Farmington High School auditorium amidst heated discussion, board members voted 5-1 in favor of the administration site.

Aldo Vagnozzi submitted the final proposal after agreeing to include an amendment by Gary Lichtman.

The amendment would take into account the "cost of sewer and water connections in conjunction with the bus drivers' building" and consultation with the professional staff involved.

The only dissenting vote came from Richard Peters. He admitted conferring with two unnamed city council members before the board meeting and proposed a third site using frontage on Grand River adjacent to the Farmington Junior High School parking lot.

He estimated an additional \$1,150 for sewer and bus driver facilities and moved that the board adopt the Grand River site. Board member Ron Emmet was absent from the meeting.

THE REV. RALPH RIDEOUT, former pastor of North Farmington Baptist Church and executive director of FAAC, called emphatically for "please, anything!" in the way of action to get the Drug Rap Line in operation.

He said he was "willing to settle" for the Grand River site if it would mean implementing construction of FAAC administrative offices any sooner.

Lichtman struck angrily at the Farmington City Council which, he said, have been "a thorn in the side of the Board of Education."

"The city council objects to portable classrooms at Farmington High School for the purpose of educating students and then has the audacity to come before the board and suggest that we take action to change the site of the FAAC headquarters," said Lichtman.

Vagnozzi condemned those who he said had used the

Rap Line issue as a "highly emotional and political football." He said he was "appalled" that an "attempt by students and the community to do something worthwhile for drug users had been stalled for so long."

FARMINGTON'S CITY COUNCIL tabled a decision last week on the proposed site near 10 Mile Elementary School to give the school board time to arrive at cost estimates for locating the portable building at Farmington Junior High.

Rev. Rideout warned that drug abuse has reached "epidemic proportions in virtually every single suburban community in American today." He said drugs were affecting the ranks of children as young as 10 years old.

"The problem is creeping down into grade schools and junior highs," he cautioned. "I hear things about eighth and ninth-graders that I used to hear about kids in grades 11 and 12."

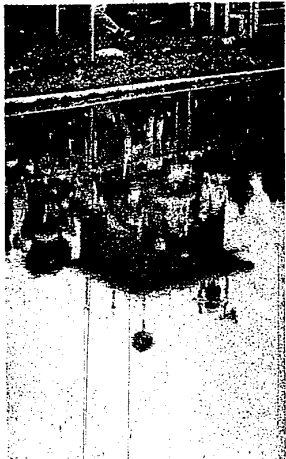
"The (FAAC) building wouldn't cause any more problems than we already have," he said.

The former pastor heads FAAC, the parent group for the Drug Rap Line and Rap Groups that now meet in Antioch Lutheran Church.

The rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, the pastor of Antioch and the lay assistant at St. Clare Catholic Church as well as several professional and lay people are all deeply involved in the program.

The school district plans to locate the FAAC portable on the site in two weeks. The two-week period gives the city council opportunity to approve a building permit at its Monday night meeting.

A board spokesman, however, explains the district will not go back to the council and ask for the permit but is giving the two weeks so the city has the opportunity to approve the site.



Who needs a river front stadium? North Farmington had one in front of its grandstand at last Saturday's game which perhaps is why the Raiders drowned Wallied Lake (Central 39-0. Details are on the sports pages in Section B.

Soil Solution

A special plea is made in today's Farmington Enterprise & Observer to all Farmington Township residents willing to help save the Good Earth. An editorial explains a good method of saving the soil and on the same page is a map of township soil you can help rescue.

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Retire Crook

George Crook has been asked to retire — at the age of 77 — as chief electrical inspector of Farmington Township. Crook insisted he was still able to make inspections but, worried about possible injury, adopted a resolution forcing his retirement.

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WEDDING STORY

The story of three winter weddings will be told October 4. Watch for this very special section.



Kids Bloom With Plants

By LIZ WISSMAN

The ladies of the Hill and Dale Garden Club of Farmington call themselves "the most reputable garbage pickers in Oakland County."

On a given day, any member of the club can be seen picking interesting weeds, inspecting roadside flora or snatching an odd container out of a ditch.

All for good reason. SINCE 1961, the ladies of the club have worked in garden therapy with Farmington School District's handicapped children — orthopedically and mentally handicapped — it makes no difference, all the children learn something of the world around them through the good offices of "the garden ladies," as the children call them.

Anything, discarded in a ditch or growing by a roadside, is fodder for the ladies' creative minds for use as class projects.

ON OCT. 14, this wonderful fun will begin again for 200 handicapped children in 19 classrooms. From that date till June, two of the club women will visit each classroom twice a month and spend an hour or more helping the children to create projects utilizing dried flowers, gourds, tin cans, pods, weeds, anything that comes to hand.

it. In the case of the orthopedically handicapped children, the project is pre-assembled before it is presented to the child.

Projects range from dried flower pictures to the somewhat difficult miniatures. One of the children like best to do and remember from year to year is a fall project of small gourds filled with chrysanthemums.

MARY LOU SELDON of the special education staff, says of this garden therapy, "Ninety times out of a hundred this is a new experience for the handicapped child. It is a new instructional field and not arts-crafts. This is the world around these children, their environment. This is an introduction, as well as instruction, in the world around them, the living things.

"And," she continues, "it is an exciting thing for us teachers to have the community come into the school. Special education is a foreboding term...through ventures like this, outsiders can see what loveable children these are."

Miss Seldon adds, "It is remarkable what rapport these women have developed through the years with these youngsters. The women have developed projects that are most meaningful for the education of the children."

The Farmington Township Board has gone on record as being strenuously opposed to the annexation question which has been placed of the Nov. 3 general election ballot.



CONCENTRATION -- That's what it takes. And they help teach it.



Morally Unjust?

Township Urges Defeat Of Annexation Question

At its regular meeting, Monday night, trustees adopted a resolution urging township residents to vote against the annexation proposal which asks for the southern portion of the township to be attached to the City of Farmington.

THE RESOLUTION, introduced jointly by trustees Thomas Nolan and Earl Opperthaus, also urged residents in the area proposed to be annexed who will vote on the proposition, "to vote 'NO' and remain a part of Farmington Township."

The position statement passed 6-1 with Opperthaus absent. Opperthaus entered the hospital recently for an operation and is now at home recovering.

"Certain special interests in the City of Farmington have filed a petition to annex approximately one-third of the territory of Farmington Township," said Nolan in offering the resolution.

NOLAN EXPRESSED displeasure that the area proposed to be annexed included the industrial area

developed by and for the benefit of the entire township.

Nolan, who also serves on the planning commission, said the annexation "would disrupt and play havoc with the township's zoning, sewer, water, roads, fire and police departments plans and operations and would deprive the township of its beneficial tax base.

"The township board has expended and is expending every effort to prevent such annexation from taking place," Nolan added, "but may be unsuccessful in doing so.

"Even though such annexation may be legally permissible," he continued, "it is nevertheless morally unjust and indefensible."

NOLAN SAID the board believes the present and future interests of all township residents will "best be served by a rejection of the annexation proposal."

Only registered voters in the City of Farmington and in the area proposed for annexation may vote on the question Nov. 3. The boundaries of the area to be annexed are township territory south of 10 Mile east of Quakerstown and south of 11 Mile Rd. west of Quakerstown.