

Wednesday, February 4, 1970

City Council Discusses Alternate Approach To Jailing Parents Of Juvenile Offenders

By EMORY DANIELS

Although Madison Heights plans to jail neglectful parents of juvenile law offenders, the City of Farmington may take a milder course of action in seeking solutions to delinquency.

The city council Monday discussed the ordinance recently adopted by Madison Heights which seeks to punish parents of habitual juvenile delinquents.

THAT ORDINANCE provides parents may be

ined up to \$500 or spend up to 90 days in jail if their child commits two or more criminal acts or four or more moving traffic violations within a 12-month period.

While discussing the Madison Heights approach, City Attorney Robert Kelley suggested a different approach which might be attempted by the City of Farmington.

If a juvenile is arrested, give the judge or police chief power to summon the parents to appear in court, Kelley suggested.

If the parents refuse to appear, then they

have committed an act of neglect and could be cited for contempt of court he added.

Kelley said such an ordinance could be written to force parents of juveniles between 17-18 years old to appear in court.

ROBERT DEADMAN, director of public safety, pointed out that parnts of children under 17 arrested are summoned presently and must appear in court. But for offenders 17 and over, parents are not required to appear, he added.

Deadman added that if a juvenile has a large allowance, many times he will appear in court alone to answer a misdemeanor charge. On serious charges, he said, bond is required and parents become involved.

The Madison Heights ordinance deems it "unlawful for the parent of any minor to fail to exercise reasonable parental control which results in the minor committing any criminal act...or become delinquent in accordance with the Probate Court as it pertains to juveniles."

The act defines a minor as any juvenile under the age of 17 residing with his parents.

The first time a minor is arrested, parents are informed and reminded of their responsibility under the ordinance. After the second criminal arrest or the fourth traffic violation in a year's time, the parent can be sentenced to jail.

CITY MANAGER John Dinan told councilmen there seemed to be a serious legal doubt whether the Madison Heights ordinance is constitutional or enforceable.

Chief Deadman said he was in favor of the concept but questioned the legality of enforcement. Deadman said parents now can be held responsible for civil damages done by their children. "But I don't know if you can send someone to jail for the acts of another."

Deadman added that parental neglect has always been a difficult charge to prove in juvenile court unless physical neglect was involved. Under Madison Heights' ordinance, he explained, parental neglect must be proved.

Councilman Ralph Yoder asked: "If the parent is sentenced to jail, who is going to take care of the juvenile offender?"

Deadman commented that presently when a juvenile becomes a habitual offender he is made a ward of the court and becomes the court's responsibility.

Kelley was instructed to confer with Deadman and Farmington District Judge Michael Hand and discuss his suggestion.

Donor Gives 36 Acres Of Wilderness For Nature Study Programs

BLOOMFIELD HILLS Thirty-six acres of wilderness land in Oakland County have been donated to the Cranbrook Institute of Science for nature study programs and a wildlife sanctuary.

The land, mostly virgin timberland with an estimated value in excess of \$230,000, is a gift of Harold Lee Ward of Pontiac.

THE AREA will be named the Willis C. and Mabel Lee Ward Nature Study Area in memory of the donor's late parents.

The land is between Orchard and Upper Stratts lakes in Orchard Lake Village, West Bloomfield Township. There is frontage on both lakes and the rolling land abounds with trees, flowers, and wildlife.

"The marsh area and the woods shelter many birds and other forms of wildlife," Ward said. "Also, my father naturalized many rare flowers in the forest and planted several small groves of Michigan white pine along with other trees in the more open spaces."

"It is hoped," Ward continued, "that through the Institute of Science the ecology of the region will be preserved for the enjoyment, study, and research by children and other interested persons."

GOP Ladies Invite Huber

State Sen. Robert Huber (R-Troy), an announced candidate for the GOP nomination for U. S. Senate in the Aug. 4 primary, will be guest speaker Feb. 16 at the noon meeting of the Republican Women's Organization of Farmington Hills.

Meeting will be held in the home of the president, Mrs. Frank Kern, at 28120 Grand Duke, Farmington. Dessert and coffee will be served. The meeting is public.

Huber recently became the first Republican to officially announce his intentions to oppose Sen. Philip H. Hart. Officers elected to serve the Farmington Hills Republican group during 1970 are: Mrs. Kern, president; Mrs. Herbert Richardson, first vice president; Mrs. Vernon Fisher, second vice president; Mrs. Bruce Duke, recording secretary; Mrs. Chasteter Hartsell, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Walter Gaertner, treasurer.

Promote DuBois

Dennis F. DuBois, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick R. DuBois of 28887 Bannockburn, Farmington, has been promoted to Army specialist five while serving with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea. DuBois is assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion of the division's 72nd Armor.

Siwa Assigned

Army SFC James R. Siwa, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Siwa of 2999 Kenwood, Farmington, has been assigned with the 137th Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, as a mortarman.

IN GIVING THE land in memory of his parents, Ward said, "I want to honor those who did so much during their lives towards the preservation of the natural beauty not only of this land but of the entire Orchard Lake region as we know it today."

Dr. Warren L. Wittry, institute director, said the land will be retained as a wildlife sanctuary and utilized for the extension of nature study programs now being conducted on the Institute grounds.

"It is a magnificent and generous gift," Dr. Wittry said, "one that will serve the people of the area tremendously through the stewardship of the Institute of Science."

Dr. Wittry said he is hopeful of finding a log cabin that can be dismantled and rebuilt on the Ward Nature Study Area. "Such a building could be

used," he said, "for shelter in inclement weather, for lectures, and perhaps for storage."

WARD, A RETIRED limberman, has had a long relationship with Cranbrook. He has been a member of the Institute of Science since 1946 and was a director of Kingswood School Cranbrook for 12 years. A widower, Ward is the father of three daughters, all Kingswood alumnae.

Cranbrook Institute of Science is one of the six institutions that make up the Cranbrook educational, cultural, and religious center. The Institute also conducts educational and research programs in botany, anthropology, and zoology.



DONATE WILDERNESS—On a cold winter's day Harold L. Ward and representatives of the Cranbrook Institute of Science inspect the 36 acres of wilderness Ward gave the Institute for nature study programs and a wild life sanctuary. From left: Ward, Dr. Warren Wittry, Institute director, and Dr. Robert Hatt, Institute board of trustees president.

'69 Traffic Claims 200 Lives On Oakland Roads

Two hundred lives were claimed in Oakland County highway crashes during 1969. This was announced by the Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County (TIA) here today.

The 1969 cumulative death toll was reached with the recording of 18 lives lost during December. The December figure compares to 13 for the same month a year ago.

THE YEAR'S annual figure, 217, greater than the 186 deaths reported for 1968 in Oakland County, is considered provisional as of this date.

This is because deaths occurring during 1970 as a result of 1969 highway accidents would be added to the 1969 toll. Although some 1969 reports are still being received for processing by TIA's Traffic Data Center, a projection of trends suggests that persons injured last year will exceed 18,000.

Final direct cost of all Oakland County highway crashes has been projected at more than \$40 million for the one year period. Michigan's 4,452 traffic deaths toll last year, largest in its history, was up only 3% over 1968. The nation, as a whole, experienced the same percentage increase.

A TIA SPOKESMAN attributed the increased Oakland County death toll to no single cause. Unseasonably good weather during the early months of 1969 allowing more and faster traffic was suggested as one of many partially responsible.

Also mentioned were an increase in licensed drivers, more registered motor vehicles as well as a healthy local economy last year. All three, said the spokesman, contributed substantially to an increase in traffic volume which

in turn boosted the exposure factor.

TIA officials emphasized the need for greater public support of those having highway safety responsibilities throughout Oakland County.

This support is needed urgently, they said, not only because of last year's experience but also because of the tremendous future influx and growth in Oakland County now being forecast by urban planners.

"Last year's toll is but a symptom indicating just how much should be done right now," said one TIA official in expressing his concern.

TIA presently is having plans for doubling its efforts to provide better coordination of official highway safety activities and to generate increased public understanding of the traffic improvement needs in Oakland County.

County 4-H Clubs Set For New Youth Center

A master site plan for an Oakland County Youth Center to serve the County's 4-H activities as well as recreational and educational programs operated by the Parks and Recreation Commission is being developed by O'Dell, Hewlett and Luckenbach, Inc., Birmingham architects and engineers.

The three-quarter million dollar youth center will be located in Springfield-Oaks Park, a county park in the north-western corner of Oakland County.

THE SITE was selected because it is centrally located to the greatest concentration of 4-H members and clubs.

It is also accessible from Pontiac and southeastern Oakland County via I-75 Freeway and from the western part of the county in the future by the proposed M-275.

The master plan being prepared by O'Dell, Hewlett and Luckenbach will guide development of the youth center in two construction phases.

The first phase will provide for a general exhibit space, multi-purpose building, which will be used as a youth center; and livestock exhibit buildings for the annual 4-H Fair and other livestock shows.

An open air amphitheater will be part of the initial building phase. Parking areas, access roads, utilities and landscaping will be based upon the immediate and long range needs of the youth center.

Additional livestock exhibit buildings, an indoor arena, and an auditorium-gymnasium addition to the multi-purpose building, and additional general exhibit buildings will be considered for the future.

OAKLAND'S PRESENT 4-H Fairgrounds is a 17-acre parcel of land owned by the county since 1940, and located just west of the City of Pontiac.

Space limitations of the present site make it unsuitable for expanded 4-H programs of the growing need by the county for a youth activities center.

The Cooperative Extension Agency and the County Facilities Engineering Division recommended, in the building program, that the existing site be sold for private development and that the money be used to partially defray the cost of building the new center in Springfield Township.

Preliminary site plans and schematic building designs are expected from the architect in early 1970. Work on the project is tentatively scheduled to begin next spring with completion sometime in late 1970.

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