

# Americans crave facts on Vietnam War

Continued from Page 1

ed in the mid-1960s, and ended when troops were finally brought home in March 1973.

Despite this apparent commemo- riation of the war, Oakland County veterans say they are pleased with the interest.

DALE PALMER, Oakland County chapter president of the Vietnam

Veterans of America, said the VVA works as a support group for mem- bers, and also as a community action group.

The VVA has grown from 48 chap- ters earlier this year to 75 today — a sign that veterans from the Vietnam era are beginning to work together, he said.

"We want to be a service organi- zation," Palmer said, talking about the Oakland VVA chapter 133 which

was started five years ago.

Besides holding regular business meetings, the VVA sponsors a Boy Scout troop for handicapped young- sters, is involved with community programs such as Toys for Tots and food drives. They are politically ac- tive in pressuring the United States to help bring home Vietnam prison- ers of war, and those missing in ac- tion.

"We're always going to be around,

giving back to the American people from the veterans of Vietnam," said one VVA member. "If a Vietnam veteran needs something, we want to help," Palmer added.

Like other veterans groups, to- day's VVA members march in parades and get involved in their communities, Palmer added. The Veterans of Foreign War post in Pontiac allows the group to use part of its building for meetings.

It wasn't always that way; the Vietnam veterans have always viewed their war as different.

"It was different because they (other veterans) were welcomed home," Palmer said. "We weren't."

THE CONFLICT in Vietnam was a war for "street kids," according to Dave Morgan, an Oakland County veteran who enlisted in the U.S. Ma- rine Corps at 19. Morgan spent 4 ac- tive years in Vietnam, participated in 11 major operations and earned a Silver Star, five ribbons and two medals.

nasty rule with Chinese influence. A portion of the country became a French colony in 1974.

United States involvement fol- lowed 8 years of the Indochina War from 1945-54, which began with the formation of a Communist National- ist movement called Vietminh, and the ouster of the French.

The U.S. advisory role escalated into a full-fledged conflict in 1964, when the U.S. destroyer Maddox was fired upon while sailing in the Gulf of Tonkin near the North Vietnam coast.

# DDA restructures project

Continued from Page 1

"The numbers are very substan- tial, fairly heavy. We are hitting the budget by cutting it (the project) off at State," Wacziarg said.

DDA president Harry Wingertler agreed last week to appoint a sub- committee to restudy and restruc- ture the project — originally divided

into five, annual phases.

"It is important to redefine the project's phases," DDA member Frank Chaplinson said. "That could be impetus that is needed to get others to move" on private enterprise projects.

The reason DDA project phases need to be adjusted is because there

are private enterprise projects already being planned throughout the downtown.

For example, there is a major retail expansion planned in the area behind the Downtown Farmington Center, along Orchard Street, which wasn't addressed in the original DDA plan until the final phase. DDA

board members say that may be done sooner, because of the invest- ment by private enterprise.

The full DDA project is expected to take up to five years to complete. Streetscape improvements, includ- ing pedestrian lighting, additional trees and new sidewalks are planned.

# Brick annex to be demolished

City officials have approved final arrangements to buy the brick annex of the Cook Building in downtown Farmington, owned by George Cal- vet.

At the rear of 33316 Grand River, the small annex is slated to be de- molished to add 10-12 new parking spaces to a lot on the north side of Grand River as part of the city's re- vevation plan.

Closing on the property's purchase is slated for this month, according to city officials.

The Farmington City Council and Downtown Development Authority each unanimously approved their portions of the arrangement last week. DDA member John Donohue abstained on one motion because he is related to an architect on the project.

The contract will ultimately pay Calvet \$24,000 over a five-year period for his property. The city will pay him \$400 per month under a land contract arrangement.

The DDA agreed to lease the prop- erty from the city for the same monthly fee. It will pay the estimat- ed \$14,800 in demolition costs.

The demolition will be expensive because utilities for the entire build-

ing are in the small annex, and must be relocated, city manager and DDA member Robert Deadman said.

In addition, local architect John Allen will be paid a construction management fee of 15 percent to coordinate repairs to the building once the annex is removed.

# President relishes off-stage role

Continued from Page 1

got us about 20-30 new members," he said.

"It's a lot of work for everybody. But it brings a lot of satisfaction. We love it," he said. "That's the only reason we do it. Community theater can produce plays, good plays, that might never be produced by a professional company and there's a lot of satisfaction in being able to offer that, aside from every- thing else."

THE FARMINGTON Players has offered entertainment in the Players

Bar, on 12 Mile, between Farming- ton Road and Orchard Lake Road, for 35 years.

"That's a long history. It probably has that long history because the policy has always been that quality comes first. And it has to, as long as we are charging admission," he said.

"I read somewhere that there are only three groups in Michigan now that are using barns to produce plays. One is us, of course. Another is Ledge's Playhouse in Grand Ledge. The other is in Port Sanilac but that is used only in the summer for the tourists."

**'Every one of us is important. Most of us have some specialty. A lot of us are multitasked and sometimes do double duty.'**

—Bob Smitham  
Farmington Players president

# Award-winning poet to appear at book shop

Award-winning poet Patricia Hooper will appear at the Little Professor Book Center in Farmington from 2-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14.

Hooper will read selections from and autograph copies of "A Bundle of Beasts," her new book of light verse for children.

Everyone knows that fish come in schools, and puppies in litters, but what about jellyfish and goats and other creatures? Over the years, people have given mysteri- ous and wonderful names to groups of animals, and Hooper improvises magically on these names in "A Bundle of Beasts."


Here are "A Snack of Jellyfish": "They bobble and bubble and blow with a hiss, and they never give up till they catch you to kiss." And "A Trip of Goats": "They travel on trains and they travel on boats, and each has a suitcase to carry his oats."

Hooper is the author of "Other Lives," a collection of poems for adult readers. Her work has appeared in many magazines, among them Poetry and The Ameri- can Scholar. She is the winner of the 1984 Norma Farber First Book Award of the Poetry Society of America, and of five Hepworth Awards.

# Help for diabetics

Help for diabetics can be obtained by calling the American Diabetes Association-Michigan Affiliate, 552-0480.

The association is a voluntary health agency, concerned with detec- tion, care and education of the 250,000 diabetics it serves in Michi- gan.



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