



FOR YOUNG ADULTS — Discussing programs for young adults is a group of young persons being led by Fred Lindholm (far left) who

is an adult group leader for Rap Line. (Evert photo)



BEHIND THE scenes of Rap Line programs are community leaders who discuss where the program is going and what improvements can be made. A recent meeting held in Trinity Lutheran Church as attended by (from left) Ralph

Rideout, FAAC director; Claire Orians; Fred Lindholm, Farmington YMCA program director; Nancy Vance; Tom Gearheart; and Eugene Grabbe. (Photo by Phyllis Clements)

RAP LINE



DOUBLE DUTY — Maria Steiger, a counselor for Rap Line, takes on the task of cleaning windows of the modular building which serves as an administrative headquarters and counseling center. The building is located behind the Farmington school administration building on Shiawassee just west of Power Rd. (Evert photo)

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Here's How To Sign Up

FARMINGTON

A special all-day voter registration will be held in Farmington Saturday, May 8, to sign up residents wanting to vote in the June 14 school election.

Residents may register either at the township hall of city hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, May 14.

Decided at the June 14 election will be selection of one trustee for four years on the Farmington Board of Education and a request for \$4.5 (\$4.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) additional operating mills for schools.

Candidates for the school board seat must file petitions by 4 p.m. Monday, May 17. Nominating petitions can now be secured at the school administration building, on Shiawassee west of Power, from Byron Oliver, assist. supt.

Scouts Fly Paper Planes

FARMINGTON

A paper airplane derby was held recently by members of Farmington Cub Scout 263 in the Kenbrook Elementary gymnasium.

The boys received pointers from derby chairman Chet Wells and cubmaster Bob Smith. Boys were checked on distance and time in the air.

John Leitch of Den 5 won first for distance and Mark Riddell of Den 2 won first for time in the air.

Den winners were: Den 1, Carter Hardin for distance and time; Den 2, Dean Kalman, distance and time; Den 3, Steve Opperhauser, time, and Dennis Brann, distance; Den 4, Scott Spencer, time, and Peter Dalton, distance.

Also: Den 5, Brian Campbell, time; Den 9, Robert Smith, time, and Gregg Rapp, distance; Den 6, James Murray for distance and time.

Rap Line's Challenge

Continued from Page 3A

On the other hand, a spokesman for the third funding agency, Oakland County, assessed Rap Line as "a very efficient program." That comment was made by Gerald St. Souver, director of the department of drug abuse control, who said Rap Line can expect an increased county allotment for 1971-72. The center operated on a \$42,600 budget in 1970-71. Director Ralph Rideout is asking \$74,500 for 1971-72.

Dr. Roderick Smith, superintendent of schools, who furnishes Rap Line quarters for a dollar a year, said the center is "performing a valuable task that should be continued."

IT BOLLS DOWN to the fact, Dr. Smith said, that young people aren't taking their problems to school or church authorities but are taking them to Rap Line, and "the place they are going needs to be given support."

"In the past two years, not more than one or two students has ever called or approached me in any way about a drug problem," Dr. Smith said. "They're not going to the principals or their ministers and only rarely to teachers or counselors. If they are going elsewhere, then I have to give my support to that level."

Dr. Smith is impatient with those who criticize Rap Line for ranging beyond just drug problems to problems with parents, boy-girl concerns, and emotional anxieties. "To me, the matter of drugs is basically a symptom that

something else is troubling the kids. It's a release mechanism," he said. "If counseling effectively handles the problems, they're soon going to leave the symptoms."

"I guess I'd say: 'Yes, the kids are calling Rap Line about drugs; and Yes, Rap Line is getting past the symptoms and getting to their problems; and that's good.'"

AT THE SAME time, Dr. Smith spoke about concern over the kind of counseling given and who gives it. "There comes a time, he said, when information given in confidence might well overlap into the province of law enforcement agencies, parents or school, and "trying to decide that responsibility is always going to be a problem."

"It needs the constant supervision of responsible people," he said.

Confirmation that the kids are clamoring up came from Jean Young, counselor at North Farmington Junior High School and executive board member of the Farmington Area Advisory Council. Rap Line's administrative body.

"The kids are just not talking to teachers as openly as before," she said. "What's more, she sees the drug problem reaching into lower and lower grades. Yet Jean Young views Rap Line as "very definitely on solid ground."

"It's not the only answer; it's not a complete answer," she said, "but it's very definitely on solid ground."

A teacher was more cautious. "It's a great concept," he conceded. "I'm not just sure how well it's being carried out."

THE EVALUATION of Rap Line as "tremendous" was made by Mrs. Lou Ann Scully, president of Middle Belt School PTA, who "babysits" at the center when young people are "manning the trouble call phone. A Rap Line rule is that at least one adult must be on hand whenever the center is open.

"These kids need each other," she declared. "They aren't average; many are on drugs. The average youngster finds comfort at home and has some one to talk to."

"I've seen a real unity at Rap Line," Mrs. Scully said.

"There's a feeling of security just being there. They really trust us. I see a lot of new faces. And the young people are so patient. They never judge, never condemn, never divulge information. They're just sympathetic and understanding. We need more places like that. A drop-in center is really crucial."

Finally, there was the Rap Line "graduate" who moved to Alpena. He went to work there and "now there's a Rap Line in Alpena," Rideout reports happily.

Director Ralph Rideout reports a couple of his "alumni" have gone on to Oakland University and two are at Eastern Michigan.

He tells about one girl who ran away and was gone two weeks. Rap Line kids got her back home after she was released by Ontario police. They brought her to Rap Line and "now she's doing beautifully."

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