

Wednesday, October 23, 1968



GROUP EFFORT — At far right, Mrs. Roland Ringquist, 32520 Sprucewood, Farmington, vice-president of the Farmington chapter of the Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, reviews films of children with perceptual handicaps with teachers from Ten Mile School. Left to right are Mrs. Julie Hawlik, Pat Gelnett and Eleanor Snyder.

7 Public Hearings Set By Township Planners

A total of seven separate public hearings on rezoning requests in Farmington Township will be held by the Township Planning Commission at its Oct. 24 meeting.

The session, which is open to the public, will begin at 8 p.m. in Duncel Junior High School on 12 Mile Rd. just east of Farmington Rd.

Hearings will include:

- Dr. Richard E. Ruel petitioned the Farmington Township Board to overrule a July 16 planning commission denial to rezone the northwest corner at Gill and Freedom.
- The doctor asked for the change from residential to office to allow medical offices to be erected.
- The township board returned the petition to the planning commission for reconsideration

with instructions to hold a public hearing on the request. Neighbors, most of whom are city residents, have expressed opposition to the proposal.

- The Hunters Ridge, apartment developer, has asked that 43 acres of Hunters Ridge Sub-division be changed from residential to multiple dwelling, allowing for 10 units per acre.
- A 2.5-acre site east of North Farmington High School at 32920 13 Mile has been proposed for office zoning by Omar G. Sanderson, Farmington realtor. The property is now residential.
- Three separate parcels have been proposed changed by the Farmington Township planning commission to allow continuation of present uses of the respective property.

Those parcels are: property

of Fendt Builders Supplies, at 22005 Gill; R&D tool, at 25820 Orchard Lake; and property at 30410 Nine Mile.

In each case, rezoning has been recommended to allow future residential development.

- Two zoning ordinance revisions will be aired at Wednesday's public hearing.

The sections have been proposed to change the existing ordinance to allow one-family attached dwellings under an optional cluster zoning ordinance. Minimum parking for multiple-family residential units has been proposed to be increased to two and a half per unit from two per unit.

Ingraham Resigns OEO Post

Carl F. Ingraham, Birmingham attorney, has announced his resignation as Chairman of the Oakland County Commission on Economic Opportunity.

In making this statement, Ingraham said his decision was prompted by his increased workload. He had previously agreed to continue to serve as chairman only until he felt Ed Revis, the new executive director, had become acclimated to the job.

Ingraham said he feels Revis has made tremendous progress as leader of Oakland County's War on Poverty effort.

Revis was selected acting executive director when James McNeely, former executive director, resigned in February to accept a position in Lansing. He was named permanent director in July.

Ingraham will continue to serve as a member of the commission, a position he has held since the commission was initially formed in October 1964. He has also served as chairman since that time.

Abnormal Tots Can Be Helped

Who Needs PD? -- What Is It?

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

Perceptual development training.

This is a key phrase in a new concept in education for some special children.

What is good perceptual development?

The ability to perceive normally, "to perceive" means to become aware of, through sight, hearing, touch, taste or smell. Most children have this ability, inborn.

But 25 per cent of the children in the United States do not perceive normally.

There are many numbers of children in Farmington who do not perceive normally. They are called perceptually handicapped.

A CHILD with a perceptual development handicap is too easily distracted, poorly organized, shows a poor use of simple language, is emotionally unstable, often hyperactive, finds it difficult to change tasks, lacks good motor coordination. But no one child with a perceptual handicap shows all these traits.

And he does not fit into a regular classroom situation. He needs perceptual development training.

FARMINGTON School District has three PD (perceptual development) classrooms - two at Forest Elementary, one at Cloverdale.

Farmington also has a chapter of the Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (MACLD), or "learning disabilities" is just another way of saying "lack of perceptual development."

The president of the 35 member MACLD, Mrs. Walter Bothwell, 2921 Peppermill, states, "We have a very good working relationship with the school system. We see ourselves as a cooperative group of interested persons."

"Knowledgeable people have to work out the academic program--we get it into operation," she adds. "Our main concern is catching the problem before it becomes a major problem for the parent."

A LIBRARIAN at Cloverdale School, Mrs. Bothwell has a nine-year old daughter who is perceptually handicapped.

She is grateful that Farmington schools have a PD program. "These children," she explains, "suffer so many defects that they begin to have a poor self-concept. The PD program tries to assure that the child experiences success. Some have become so immobilized at being unable to do the simplest tasks they expect to always fail."

Mrs. Bothwell is also grateful that Farmington has a MACLD chapter.

THE CHAPTER'S meetings provide a time and climate in which parents may gather informally to talk to one another, gaining strength to recognize their fears and problems and join in a group effort to help their children.

Mrs. Bothwell knows, as the MACLD does, that perceptually handicapped children have potential.

DESPITE learning disorders, possible behavior disorders, a combination of these, such children demonstrate successful

functioning abilities when given timely and appropriate help.

This is where the schools step in.

The Oakland County Board of Education instituted a program for perceptually handicapped youngsters some years ago.

All costs of housing and equipping the Farmington PD classrooms are paid by the county out of revenue from the Special Education Tax approved by residents in 1953 and 1964.

Operating costs are shared by Oakland Schools and the State Department of Education.

BUT ASIDE FROM enrolling their children, after approval, in PD classes, Farmington MACLD members carry on a program of self-education.

When you have a child it is impossible to teach back from classrooms are paid by the front, or teach to tie his shoes, or to sit down long enough to eat a breakfast, your self-education never ends.

Mrs. Bothwell says that a MACLD meeting gave her a tip on how to cope with the breakfast situation.

A member at the meeting told how she coped by simply serving her handicapped child one of the prepared breakfast trays.

THE FARMINGTON MOTHER said the solution had never occurred to her.

"This is an example of the ways we learn to avoid a situation," she claims. "We learn to go around a problem by

taking care of it before it arises.

"For instance," notes the mother, "My daughter has difficulty in telling the back of her pants from the front. I simply put a mark on the back with nailpolish and it has helped her. Somehow, we have to teach these youngsters self-reliance."

In a later article, Farmington schools' perceptual development program will be described in detail.



LEARNING SKILLS — Daniel Osowski, far right, Farmington physical education instructor, takes some perceptually handicapped and some average children through simple skill exercises. From the left, the youngsters are Mary Laforet, Ellen and Brian Lewis and Michelle Laforet.

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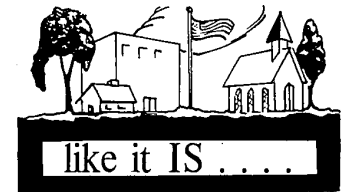
See The CHILDREN'S PAINTING CONTEST WINNERS Now on Display in LERNER'S window

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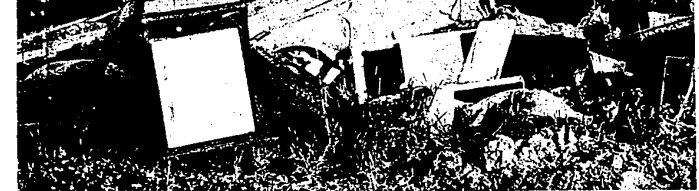
like it IS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Each week The Farmington Enterprise & Observer will carry a short feature on something that is happening in Farmington. Both good and bad will be reflected. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed. If you have a suggestion call 474-0225.)

Nothing is sacred or safe from the vandals. A survey of 30 Farmington churches shows that more than half of them have been robbed at some point.

Equipment stolen included microphones and amplifiers in many instances. A total of 12 churches reported actual break-ins while 17 said that equipment had been robbed. Eight cases of vandalism were reported.

The comments of the church spokesmen ranged from "many times" to "no problem." One church reported that it had been damaged "three or four times during the past year." Still another pastor said that the church building had not been damaged, but that the "school buses were hit often."



ILLEGAL DUMPING — Farmington Township officials have responded to illegal dumping by scheduling special refuse pick-ups for Oct. 26

(south of Ten Mile) and Nov. 8 (north of Ten Mile). This illegal dump is at Eleven Mile east of Mercy High School.