

'A Misunderstanding' - Teeples

Park Provokes Minor Debate

FARMINGTON
Five acres of land near Glen Oaks Country Club were willed several years ago to Farmington Township to be used as a park. The site contains trees, weeds and undergrowth which would make an afternoon walk unpleasant.

The land is seldom visited except by a golfer who takes a bad slice, and people who pull up in their cars and dump their trash on the lot.

The land is free and wild and dirty.

Now, 13 youngsters from the Oakland County Neighborhood Youth Program are clearing the garbage and taking away the dead trees.

THE YOUNG people are using hand tools to help them clean the land, and this has sparked some controversy as to whether or not these kids, ages 14-18, can be allowed to use shears, sickles and axes on the job.

At least one resident in the area wondered why they were there and if their presence was legal. This prompted Farmington Township Supervisor Earl Teeples to call a special meeting of township officials Thursday morning, concerning what he termed "largely a misunderstanding of township plans for the area."

Teeples said that Boy Scouts learn to use axes when they are 12 and that the youngsters clearing the land were older. The state employment laws on youth say that no minor under the age of 18 may be allowed to use a power tool of any sort

and that they must have adequate supervision when using any other kinds of tools.

The 13 young people work three, eight-hour days and are being paid through the Neighborhood Youth Corps which is funded from Washington under the Department of Labor. The program is operated by the Oakland County Commission on Economic Opportunity.

BY STATE LAW there must be at least one supervisor for every 10 youth workers. Since most of the youngsters are girls, the supervisor is also female. She is Nancy Herman, 18, a senior at North Farmington High School.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps Program is work experience for underprivileged youth. It currently employs 1,000 young people throughout Oakland County at the rate of \$1.60 an hour.

There are also four youngsters working in the

2 Get Degrees At Notre Dame

FARMINGTON
Two Farmington men were among those receiving undergraduate degrees from the University of Notre Dame at the university's 126th annual commencement exercises.

They are: Harry L. Lapham Jr. of 22650 Maple, and Donald D. Peterson of Foxgrove Road. Lapham majored in financing and Peterson in physics.

Farmington Township Hall in addition to the 13 cleaning the land. Any youth who is recruited must come from a family with an income below a certain level. They are screened from school students and they are all attending school.

At the meeting, Teeples said, "They are good, deserving, young people. They are not in trouble in any way. They are not on probation. They have not been able to land a summer job. They are anxious to work and they are enthusiastic."

Teeples was approached by Dwight Lewis of the Neighborhood Youth Corps and asked if there was a job that these kids might have. There were three weeks remaining in the program and 13 kids needed work. The township park was an ideal place for enthusiastic hands to start, Teeples said.

THE GLEN OAKS Country Club which borders the land has offered to buy the five acres to enlarge its parking lot, clubhouse and course. The youngsters were put to work this week. Natural habitats for quail and pheasants have remained. The land is not being cleared for cultivation; it is being cleaned and dead matter removed. Questions concerning damage to the natural cover were raised by Mrs. Betty Frankel of the township beautification committee at the meeting.

The young people are fully insured by the federal

government, and they are being protected by workmen's compensation, township officials were assured.

"These young people are doing something productive. They are producing a good thing for their fellow citizens. They are taking a piece of property, neglected for years by us... and improving it. We

are not going to have another Baldock or Hines Park," said Teeples.

The township attorney, Paul Bibeau, agreed that it was a good program and should receive formal township approval. Five officials out of the seven member board endorsed the land clearing, Teeples said.



AXES SWINGING, the Youth Corps has moved in to clean up the township's five-acre park. Ken Pearson is cutting a dead tree.



TRASH CLEANUP was a big part of the job as the Youth Corps moved in to clean up a township park. Craig Durfee is one of the youths given a paying job on the project. (Photos by Fran Evert)

We Back Millage, Finance Group Says

FARMINGTON
The finance committee, a sub group of the Farmington School Citizens Advisory Council, has announced its support of the Aug. 23 millage.

The group has been studying the district's finances since January, and has been provided free access to all the financial records of the school district by the business manager, William Prisk.

Mrs. Lillian Allen, in a statement from the group, said that the committee was at first skeptical of the need for additional millage. A portion of the group's statement follows:

"AS A RESULT of the studies, it was found that sound business methods are being employed throughout the district, and the committee is now in agreement that the 3.5 mill proposal for 12 months is essential to maintain the good educational program that most Farmington parents expect for their children.

Heavy Vote Seen In Millage Issue

FARMINGTON
Another heavy vote is forecast Aug. 23 when Farmington public schools go back to the voters with a new millage proposal.

Nearly 500 requests for absentee ballots had been received by mid week, and "we usually get five or six," said Byron E. Oliver, director of administrative services and election clerk.

He predicted a turnout of more than 6,000 voters, for the second highest in the district's history, topped only by the 7,300 who balloted in the June 14 millage election.

Swelling the electorate will be 18 through 20 year olds voting for the first time. Between 500 and 600 in that age group have registered in the district, Oliver said.

The schools are asking an additional 3.5 mills (\$3.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) for one year. A higher tax bid in June lost.

Next Saturday (Aug. 21) is the last day to apply for absentee ballots and Oliver said the school administrative offices will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to provide them. Deadline for returning ballots is 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 23.

To guard against lineups of waiting voters, as happened June 14, Oliver has set up two tables and two sets of polling books in each of the district's four precincts.

He figures he can handle twice the number of voters and at the same time eliminate long waits. One line will handle voters whose last names begin with the letters A through L, and the second M through Z.

revenue to the school district has not increased proportionately because we are penalized by a decrease in state aid.

"Five years ago state funds provided more than 50 per cent of our school budget; last year these funds accounted for only 34 per cent. Since June 1967, enrollment has increased by over 2,000 students, the majority of whom are at the secondary level which is the most expensive level of education in our system.

"This growth has created the need for the new Harrison High School and the proposed fifth junior high school. Existing secondary facilities are overcrowded.

"SALARIES account for 85 per cent of the total budget

Registration Open For Grade Schools

FARMINGTON
All parents of children planning to attend kindergarten or elementary schools in Farmington in September should register their youngsters as soon as possible.

Navy Graduate

FARMINGTON
Navy Airman Kit A. Pridmore, son of Mr. and Mrs. William D. Pridmore of 2774 Linden, Farmington, has graduated from Avionics Technician "A" School at the Memphis Naval Air Technical Training Center in Millington, Tenn.

Pridmore, a 1969 graduate of Farmington High School, completed a 20-week course including basic electronics, radar theory, transmitters and digital computer theory.

and must be negotiated yearly. Savings in this area can be realized only by cutting personnel thus diluting programs.

"Of the remaining 15 per cent, studies of the Finance Committee have shown that considerable effort is being exercised to spend money cautiously.

"It is the hope of the finance committee that their fellow voters will recognize the financial plight of the Farmington School District and will support the proposed millage increase in order to maintain the sound educational program which has been developed for our community."

Parents should register their children at the school their child plans to attend. School offices will be open from 8:30 a.m. - noon and 1:40 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. each weekday during the rest of the summer to receive registrations, according to Lawrence Freedman, director of elementary schools in the Farmington School District.

Both parent and child must be present during registration. Freedman continued. According to Michigan state law, parents of students attending Michigan schools for the first time are required to fill out appropriate immunization and health forms available in the school offices.

Children who will have reached the age of five on or before Dec. 1, 1971, are eligible to enter kindergarten.

Anyone wishing further information on location of schools or times, should contact either the director of administrative services, or Freedman, both at the board of education offices.

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