



NEW OFFICERS -- Four patrolmen were recently sworn in as officers of the Farmington Township Police Department. They were added to the force through federal traffic safety grant funds. Shown from left are: William Schuhardt; Raymond A. Cranston Jr.; Dennis F. King; William J. Edgar Jr., and Mrs. Gladys Thomas, deputy clerk. (Evert photo)

YMCA Starts Construction

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Livonia was selected as general contractor with a base bid of \$63,690.

The story of the Farmington YMCA actually begins in

January 1963 with the first meeting of a local group of residents to organize a branch.

Rose Berberian became program director in November 1964, and the civic membership enrollment drive started in February, 1965. The Farmington area extension committee (formally petitioned the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit to become the Farmington Area Branch in May 1965.

ON JUNE 21, 1965, Farmington was officially given the status of a YMCA branch of the Detroit YMCA, and the following September Comfort was named executive director.

The 1966 budget total was \$37,000, and the year ended with a deficit of \$3,800. In

October 1966, a memorial fund was established by the Chesley family in memory of George W. Chesley, founder of Chesley Industries, Inc. of Farmington. In 1967, the budget was raised to \$42,000.

Another boost was received in April 1967, when the Soroptimist Club of Farmington announced that proceeds from its Town Hall series would be donated to the YMCA building fund. The following April, the first Town Hall donation of \$1,500 was presented to Board Chairman Robert Chesley.

The budget has grown from \$60,000 in 1969 to \$65,400 in 1970 to \$66,370 in 1972. Co-chairmen of the 1972 annual fund-raising drive are Tom Lindbert and Ralph Godmar.

COMFORT gives credit for advances made by the YMCA since 1965 to Chesley, Jack Cotton and Robert Hall who have served as board chairmen during this period. Chesley is owner of Chesley Industries, Cotton is athletic director of Farmington School District, and Hall is principal of Southfield High School.

The \$76,000 budget for 1972 includes income from donations for such projects as: membership scholarship to give a Farmington boy or girl the chance to join the YMCA, \$50 per youth; Guys and Dolls, a social-recreational program for mentally handicapped young adults, \$100 per family; and camp scholarships, \$150 per youth.

During 1971, the Farmington YMCA sponsored 121 groups which enrolled 1,875 members who engaged in a total of 26,635 activities.

The core of the YMCA's work, says Comfort, is the Indian Guides and Maidens which involve fathers - sons and mothers - daughters working together in group projects.

Last year there were: 48 Indian Guide groups; four Indian Maidens groups; 12 GRA-Y for boys; 12 TRI-GRA-Y for girls; eight Trailblazers groups; two Guys and Dolls groups; seven Kiddie Camps; 12 Day Camps; and nine Resident Camps.

Schools OK Phone Newsline

A telephone "newsline" to carry recorded messages of interest to parents is being established by Farmington School District in the latest of a series of public relations moves.

The line also can be manned as a "hot line" to rebut rumors or provide accurate information in times of controversy.

MRS. KAY Stirling, chairman of the board of education's public relations committee, said the idea has been tried in other districts and been "relatively" successful. The taped message will be revised at least three times a week, she said. Besides approving the message service, the board Tuesday authorized mailing bi-monthly newsletters to parents from principals of schools their children attend. The first mailing will go out in February, Mrs. Stirling said.

Cost of the two programs was put at \$2,000 for the remainder of the school year. They will be in addition to "Board Notes," a printed report distributed after each public board meeting to school staff members and about 400 community leaders.

Efforts currently are being made to place the "Notes" with other reading material in doctors', dentists' and other professional office waiting rooms.

EFFORTS at improving communications between the schools and public began a couple of months ago when the board hired a consultant from an East Lansing public relations firm, Ned S. Hubbell and Associates. The consultant, Peter Bloesflug, was hired on a non-permanent basis. Mrs. Stirling said, "to give us in-service training, to teach us how to do for ourselves" in bringing about better public relations and in creating a better public relations awareness among the staff. "We took a long look at other districts and saw well developed, coordinated, overall public relations programs," Mrs. Stirling said, "while we were rocked with misinformation and rumor."

Gary Geha Day Is Set

FARMINGTON
A special day has been set aside to honor Gary G. Geha of Farmington who has recently been elected to the high DeMolay office of state illustrious knight commander, Michigan State Priory, Order of Knighthood.

Geha, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Geha of Nestlewood, Farmington, will be the center of attention on Saturday, Jan. 28, which has been declared as "Gary George Geha Day" by resolution of both City and Township of Farmington. GEHA WILL be honored at

a reception - dinner dance on Jan. 29 in the Farmington Masonic Temple at Grand River and Farmington Rds. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Dance music will be provided by Caesar's Children, a Farmington - Livonia musical group.

and was chosen as "Most Friendly" by members of his senior class.



GARY GEHA

Board Sues Faculty Union

FARMINGTON
The Farmington School District has asked Oakland County Circuit Court both to clarify and set aside an arbitrator's decision concerning counselors and librarians.

The suit offsets action filed one day before by the Farmington Education Association (FEA) seeking payment of \$25,000 allegedly due the employees.

The case goes back to December 1970, when the board, in an economy move, eliminated days normally

worked by counselors and librarians beyond the end of the regular school year.

The issue went to arbitration and the school district lost its case.

The arbitrator, Dr. E.J. Forsythe, ordered the extra weeks restored to the librarians and counselors who then would be compensated. However, Roger Allen, FEA executive director, said the board had ignored the ruling.

Supt. Roderick Smith claimed the award was ambiguous and not clear cut enough to be fully understood.

The board, in its suit, also charged the arbitrator with exceeding the powers expressly granted to him under terms of the collective bargaining agreement.

The contract with the FEA provides only for 200 work days, the board said, and the extra weeks for librarians and counselors are not included in the contract. Thus, the district argued, the arbitrator overstepped his authority and, in effect, amended the contract.

The entire evening is open to the public and reservations at \$3 per person must be made by today (Saturday) with Michael A. Schlaff of 24181 Broadview, Farmington.

During the afternoon of Jan. 29, there will be a meeting of the State Priory in the Farmington Masonic Temple with Geha presiding.

A 1971 graduate of North Farmington High School, he's attending the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College. He has received many honors and awards for efforts in school, church and DeMolay.

Geha served as master counselor of the local Farmington DeMolay chapter in 1971 and was awarded the past master counselors meritorious service award by the international supreme council of DeMolay for his outstanding leadership.

In 1971, Geha was elected the outstanding DeMolay of Farmington and is presently serving as state director of the DeMolay Sweepstakes program which measures activities and efficiency of all DeMolay chapters in the state.

Geha is also circulation manager of the Wolverine Herald, state DeMolay publication, and is active in his church choir and youth groups. He hopes to be ordained into the ministry of the Syrian Orthodox Church.

In high school, he was active in the choir and class board

Schools OK '72 Budget


FARMINGTON
The Farmington Board of Education added \$10,000 to its money-pinchd elementary grade allotment before approving a final \$15,975 million budget for 1971-72.

The money will go for additional instructional supplies, according to Business Administrator William Prisk. The funds will be taken from money previously allotted for improvements and maintenance of buildings and sites, Prisk said.

Trustee Aldo Vagnozzi, who proposed increasing the elementary budget, suggested the funds be used for either field trips or supplies. The decision to use it for supplies was made by building principals.

The board, Tuesday night, also established tuition rates at \$385 per year for elementary grade students and \$520 per year for secondary students.

Only nine non-resident students are currently enrolled in the system out of the 69 enrolled at the start of the school year, Prisk said. The others have since moved into the district.



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