

Trustees Table Unity Vote Until Reactions Are In

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY
Farmington Township Trustees adopted a "wait and see" attitude to the reaction to the call for a consolidation election of the entire Farmington area Monday night.

They resolved to consider the matter again at their next regular session (Nov. 27) after the members had heard reactions to the proposal from members from Quakerstown and Wood Creek Farms.

OPERTHAUSER introduced his resolution after the Board heard Supervisor Curtis Hall read a letter from Farmington City Manager John Dinnin transmitting the Council's formal resolution for a moratorium on annexation attempts and requesting "similar action" from the township board.

The trustees tabled the City's resolution as having "no legal basis in stopping any individual or group from taking annexation steps."

"I think that going this far might do more harm than good," Opertthauser said in reference to the city stand, "as the people of the township could be lulled into a false sense of security and then find out that further annexation attempts might come about."

"The resolution I would propose includes practically all the ideas the city includes in its resolution, but would have legality in preventing annexation or incorporation attempts until the study is completed. I think the only way to do this is to file consolidation petitions."

"I understand that people think to file these petitions would be putting the cart before the horse," Opertthauser continued, "but I don't think so. My position is to have the study completed and have the vote set for six months after the completion of the study."

"The resolution calls for the question to be placed on the ballot in Nov., 1968. This would permit for a complete study of the entire area which would consider the alternatives of consolidation, the current township-city status quo, or incorporation of the township into a separate city."

ASSERTING his support for an area study, Opertthauser added that "I think it is high time we had a complete and objective study made by people capable of the task. When the study is completed it could be issued to the public along with a report. Then the people could determine just what were their best interests in the three alternatives."

Both Trustees Thomas Nolan and James Skillman expressed interest in the idea, but said they wanted some more time to study the idea.

"I'd like a couple of weeks to weigh this on the theory that I want to be sure that the cure is not worse than the illness," Skillman observed.

The resolution to table both the city's request and Opertthauser's proposal until the Nov. 27 session included the stipulation that "an attempt be made to hear comments from the other political units."



"CRIME SCENE -- DO NOT ENTER" -- That's the official notice now tacked to the door of this small white home at 33849 Rhonswood in Farmington Township where Mary Ann Poynter allegedly was slain by her husband, Steven, last Friday. Poynter is being held on a charge of first degree murder.

Ex-Policeman Held On Murder Charge

By FRED DELANO

Private funeral services were held Monday for troubled Mary Ann Poynter only three hours after the husband who is accused of her murder was given an opportunity to bid his personal farewell to the woman he once had vowed to love "till death do us part."

Police officers brought 24-year-old Steven Dale Poynter from the Oakland County Jail to the Llaney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington for a final moment of solitude with the body of his wife, 23, the mother of his two small children.

He then was returned to his cell in Pontiac to await examination, Nov. 24 on a charge of first degree murder. He is being held without bond after standing mute upon arraignment before Farmington Township Justice Byron Waller.

POYNTER, who himself is a former member of the Township police department, is alleged to have shot his wife to death Friday afternoon in their home at 33849 Rhonswood, located west of Farmington Rd. between Eight and Nine Mile Roads.

Township Police Chief Irving H. Yakes and his aides have maintained a tight-lipped silence as to any statements Poynter may have made to them on what caused the shooting.

Poynter turned himself in to Yakes and his officers late Friday night, almost seven hours after the shooting. Mrs. Poynter's body was discovered by their four-year-old daughter. Both the girl and her 13-month-old brother are being cared for by Oakland County juvenile authorities.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, while Poynter was working as a Township police officer, a family fracas brought about his suspension from the department, after which he later resigned. In that incident, Poynter's wife chased him from their home with a gun, with the pursuit following down side streets to Farmington Rd. south of Nine Mile where city police intervened.

Mrs. Poynter spent a short time in a rest home following that outbreak, according to authorities. Since Friday's slaying, the small, two-bedroom house on Rhonswood has been sealed by police and a sign on the front door reads, "Crime Scene -- Do Not Enter."

In a side yard, swings and a slide go unused, and a "For Sale" sign placed at the edge of the road by a realtor bids for new life for the tiny dwelling.

Kushner was arrested near his home Monday night by state law enforcement officers and is accused of printing football bet slips.

He was one of 25 persons in Oakland, Wayne and Genesee Counties arrested in a series of raids conducted by the state's Organized Crime Division operating from the office of Attorney General Frank J. Kelley.

Kelley said the raids broke up a gambling ring handling \$100,000 a week in football bets. Investigators said that at Kushner's Shawwassee address they seized a printing press and several thousand bet slips.

Kushner Bond Set At \$500

Frank R. Kushner, 28, of 27714 Shawwassee, Farmington Township, was released on \$500 bond this week by Municipal Judge Thomas Ledits of Flint after his arrest on a charge of conspiracy to violate state gaming laws.

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Self-Help Group Battles Apathy

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

The man who has been named as the next president of the Farmington Citizens' Advisory Council pinpointed a reason for the unpopularity of the group at its year-end meeting Monday night at Gill School.

Facing the audience of 13 people, Wes Smith said, "It's the same thing with voting, voter registrations, PTAs -- nothing but the lack of the people in this area (around Gill School) creates the situation we have on our hands."

In all its efforts to date, the members have had the backing of the Farmington OEO sub-center. The county OEO center may be closed, which will close the sub-center.

WITH OEO impetus, the council set up committees a year ago on health, housing, employment, family life, education and roads.

Here is the picture to date: Health - The Farmington Mothers' Federation was formed and is still operating; an emergency fund was set up and an emergency food supply, both of which have been used.

Employment - Outside of small ads for work in the council newsletter not much has been done. There was hope for more in this area until word was received that a local Michigan Employment Security Commission Office would not open.

Housing - Members are keeping abreast of federal activity in this area by attending meetings on housing. Family life - Was not developed and considered a sensitive area.

Education - Tutors have volunteered to help persons study for high school diplomas, but there have been no takers. Council opinion is that contact to promote this area will have to be done on a person-to-person basis.

ROADS - This has been, by far, the most active area, but to date, all attempts to get the county to improve roads in the area of Gill Rd.-Rhonswood have been abortive.

Schools Need Tutors

Faced with an acute need for additional full-time teachers, the Farmington Board of Education Monday night approved six appointments to its instructional staff as administrators declared there still are openings for at least eight more. "Science, mathematics and industrial arts teachers are sorely needed in particular," said Marjorie Van Ameyde, assistant superintendent for instruction.

Superintendent Roderick J. Smith said that some of what are categorized as full-time teaching assignments have been filled this semester by substitutes, who are being replaced by appointments to the permanent staff as quickly as possible.

ADDED TO the teaching corps by Board approval Monday were these six instructors: Mrs. Jean M. Biddulph, 24, a graduate of Central Michigan University, upper elementary classes but no school assigned as yet.

Mrs. Sherrill N. Bruer, 23, a graduate of the University of Michigan, sixth grade at Eagle Elementary.

Mrs. Thea Dabena, 28, a graduate of Calvin College, second grade at Flinders Elementary.

Karen S. Kent, 21, a graduate of Michigan State University, English instructor at East Junior High.

Arthur A. Koski, 28, a graduate of Northern Michigan University, elementary physical education.

Mrs. Barbara Loughlin, a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, first grade at Middlebelt Elementary.

Millage revenue--and there will be more as to the needs in the next two articles of this series--is key to operating

It must be understood, that for construction purposes, the Board has no other way of getting it. In its simplest analysis, the Board of Education wants to raise \$9 million by selling bonds at the prevailing rate of interest, but can't do it unless the property owners of the district approve--for they foot the bill.



A TRIP BACK HOME. That's what Air Force Lt. Col. George L. Esch made last Saturday when he was present to dedicate the refurbished Veterans Monument in Farmington. Esch, chaplain at Selfridge A.F. Base, was born in Farmington Township and lived in a farmhouse on the site of the present Kendallwood II subdivision. Standing behind Esch is Township Trustee Thomas Nolan.

Bond Revenues For Construction

EDITOR'S NOTE: On Nov. 27 residents of the Farmington School District will be asked to vote on a \$9 million bond issue and to raise the operational levy by five mills for a 10 year period.

By FRED DELANO
Proposition "A" on the Farmington School District ballot Nov. 27, requesting approval for a \$9 million bond issue, will mark the fourth time in five years that the Board of Education has been forced to go to the people with hand outstretched for money to build more schools.

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Youth Guidance V:

Committee Seeks Expansion Of Pilot Program

EDITOR'S NOTE: What is the Farmington Youth Guidance Committee? Who are its members and how is it supported? What is its function? These and other questions about the citizen-based youth group are examined and answered in a series by Observer Staff Writer Elizabeth Wissman.

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN
Rebutted recently--unofficially--by the township board in its bid for support for an expanded pilot community program, the Youth Guidance Committee (YGC) cites the provisions of its charter.

It states--The city, township and school board have chartered the YGC to:

ly and community living conditions. Assist in the prevention of delinquency and neglect.

COMMITTEE opinion is that pilot programs, such as the one it ran at Gill School last year, are well within the scope of this charter.

It has been suggested that the YGC may be overlapping the function of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission (FARC) with its concept of providing several types of weekly activities on an "as desired basis" for those who wish to take part.

Jim Alstrom, YGC president, has talked to the FARC to explain YGC interest in this area. He emphasized the point of the "drop-in" or "as desired" philosophy of the pilot commu-

nity program. He further emphasized the fact that the program does not have as its goal a highly organized team type of recreation or sports program.

IF YGC community programs, as conceived, are successful--and Gill's was--the YGC states it will work with the FARC and the school administration to obtain permanent community support for its proposed expanded pilot.

Impetus for the YGC hopes for an expanded program has been given by the availability of Mott Foundation funds for community programs. Whether the YGC is dreaming on too large a scale in its tentative plans for going to the community for funds is still to be determined.

IF THE YGC was able to raise \$8,000 from community donation, matching funds could be obtained from Mott. The \$8,000 figure is considered the base amount needed.

In the event a community program were instituted, eventual operation would be in control of the school board. The committee states in this year's report that it hopes to provide a communications link between youth-serving organizations in Farmington in order to prevent duplication and overlapping of efforts.

Some have said the YGC is guilty of this fault. The committee is well aware that tax funds would be required to operate a full-scale community program.

It knows taxes are unpopular



PART AND PARCEL of the Youth Guidance Committee's community program is all this activity which is a regular part of the YGC after school program at Gill Elementary School.

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