

THE NEW Oakland County Law Enforcement Complex, modeled here, is scheduled for completion in September 1971.

Food Stamp Distribution Plagues Oakland County

SOUTH LYON
The 15 members of the South Lyon Jaycees auxiliary have come up with a plan to solve the problem of food stamp distribution, a problem that continues to plague communities throughout Oakland County.

It all began in March when Mrs. James Sveska, South Lyon Housing Commission director, contacted Mrs. Perry Root, then president of the auxiliary, and asked her if the group could do something about the food stamp situation.

MRS. SVESKA WORKS with low-cost housing for senior citizens, many of whom are eligible for food stamps but who are unable to get to Pontiac or Royal Oak, the distribution centers, to pick them up.

At the March meeting of the Jaycees Auxiliary, the group approved the project of distributing food stamps. All that was needed to begin work on the program was the approval of the women's husbands, the Jaycees.

At first the men said no to the project, but after Mrs. Root and Mrs. James Henne, who was chairman of the project, presented the project to the men in person, the Jaycees agreed, stipulating that the women be insured against theft.

THE NEXT STEP for the Jayceettes was to design a workable program. Mrs. Root, Mrs. Henne and Mrs. Sveska decided the best plan was to set up a central collection and distribution point in South Lyon. They decided on city hall.

Many persons are automatically eligible for food stamps. Recipients of public assistance (direct relief, old age assistance, aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, and aid to the disabled) do not have to make a separate application for food stamps.

Their social worker, upon request, will make the necessary arrangements. Other persons whose income and liquid assets meet the limitations can apply directly to the Department of Social Services for food stamps.

It was estimated that 50 families in the South Lyon area are eligible for food stamps.

ONCE A MONTH two of the Jayceettes collect money at city hall for stamps, convert the money into a money order and bring it to the Food Stamp Center in Pontiac.

At the center they receive stamps in envelopes for each person who has paid. The stamps are taken back to South Lyon and stored until the next morning when they are distributed at City Hall.

During the planning stages of the project, the women tried to imagine all of the problems that they might encounter. One was that if someone tried to claim stamps that did not belong to him? The identification system built into the food stamp program eliminates this problem.

The amount of money a person has to spend on food stamps is indicated on the card sent with the monthly check from the Department of Social Services. This card plus the government identification card must be presented to the woman collecting food stamp money.

Persons who are eligible for food stamps are required by the Department of Social Services periodically, and they receive a new identification card and a new number at regular intervals. The name and identification number of each person are recorded on a sign-in sheet that the Jayceettes have at collection time.

To eliminate someone else's picking up the stamps for the recipient, the Jayceettes collect with the money the identification cards in exchange for a receipt. The identification cards are returned in the individual envelopes with the stamps the next day in exchange for the receipts. The same women who collected the money distribute the stamps.

THE PROBLEM of storing the stamps in a safe place was eliminated when South Lyon officials agreed to store the stamps in a vault at City Hall.

The women have set up a check-point system, too, regarding transportation of money and stamps: The women who drive to Pontiac for the stamps call one of the club members when they arrive in Pontiac. Then if the drivers do not return to South Lyon within a reasonable time, the police are notified.

What happens if someone does not pick up his stamps? The West Wayne County Neighborhood Unit of the Oakland County on Economic Opportunity has worked with the Jayceettes throughout the planning of the program has agreed to help solve this problem by providing transportation when needed or by any other method the Jayceettes decide is best.

Another problem already encountered is parking at the Food Stamp Center. The women were refused permission to park close to the building, so they solved the problem another way. The driver lets the rider, with the money, out at the door, parks the car so that she can see the door to the center, and picks up the rider when she comes to the door with the stamps.

The Jayceettes were also told by one of the women who works in the center that they could not get the stamps with a money order. However, Harold Martin, food stamp officer, corrected the problem, and the money orders from the Jayceettes are now accepted.

The sheet also explains a state requirement that "missing two consecutive months will automatically withdraw you from the program."

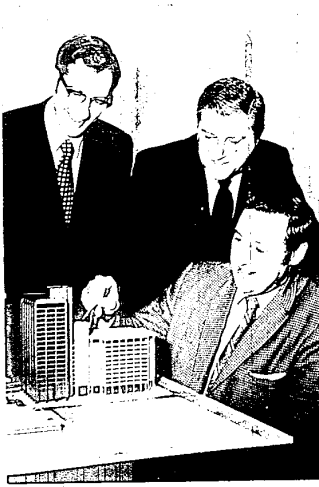
This month, the first time the Jayceette program was in operation, only five families took advantage of it. Four were senior citizens, and one was a young mother.

The Jayceettes are hoping word of the program will spread and more families will participate. The next collection date is Aug. 4, and distribution will be made on Aug. 5. Money

is collected from 9 a.m. until noon on collection days, and stamps are distributed during the same hours the next day.

The auxiliary has written an information sheet about the program. Included on the sheet are collection and distribution dates plus directions for the recipients, such as having the correct money (no checks), and having a food stamp program identification card and an authorization card.

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State To Close I-96 Entrance

The State Highway Department plans to temporarily close the I-96 entrance on Freedom Drive east of Farmington Rd. in the City of Farmington.

The state will close it soon for 90 days during which the effects of the closing will be studied.

At the end of the 90 days, a determination will be made whether the entrance will be reopened at its present location, relocated, or closed permanently.

The entrance has about a 30-degree angle with the base of the triangle from Freedom to I-96 facing Orchard Lake. As a result, the entrance is usable only for motorists heading west on Freedom.

The angle makes it impossible for Farmington Rd. traffic heading east on Freedom to negotiate a turn and use the entrance.

Because of this, the state has placed "No Right Turn" and "No U Turn" signs on the south side of Freedom for eastbound traffic.

But trucks and other motorists, wanting to use the entrance to get on I-96, continue eastward and use private driveways to turn around to approach the entrance.

Robert Deadman, the city's director of public safety, says his department has received numerous complaints from residents east of the entrance about the turn-around traffic in their drives.

The state's proposal to temporarily close the entrance was presented to the Farmington City Council Monday night as was favorably received.

During the 90 days, a check will be made to see how the closing affects the traffic flow in other areas. The state wants to know where the traffic will flow to decide if the entrance should remain closed or be relocated.

When the ramp was first built, it is believed, the state felt motorists would travel down Nine Mile and across Freedom to enter I-96. But that traffic pattern never developed.

DESIGNS CENTER — Edgar F. Joppich (seated) of Farmington was among the principal designers of the 21-story addition planned for the Detroit Trade Center. Joppich is director of projects and research with Jickling & Lyman, a Birmingham architectural firm. Also shown with the model are Richard Kughn, president of Taubman Company, Inc., of Southfield (left) and Vincent Peters, senior vice president of Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., a realty management firm of New York.

Bowland Is VP Of Area Club
FARMINGTON Robert H. Bowland of 25389 Harcourt in Farmington has been elected second vice president of the North Detroit Management Club. Bowland is a manager of manufacturing systems at Ex-Cell-O Corp. in Highland Park.

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St. Clare Has Nursery School
FARMINGTON A nursery school combining play for organized learning for pre-school tots is in operation at Farmington St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church.
The school was organized last year by Gloria Slonisch and Judi Schlamman, both graduates of Hillsdale College and Merrill Palmer Institute.
Licensed as a school by the State of Michigan, 24 children meet two mornings each week. For further information and registration, call 474-6562.

Clerk To Sell Dog Licenses
FARMINGTON Dog owners in Farmington Township needing dog licenses should now make application to the township clerk's office instead of the treasurer's office.
The responsibility of selling dog licenses has been shifted to the clerk's office until after the November election when it will probably be turned back to the treasurer's office once the new treasurer gets oriented to that office.
The present treasurer, Mrs. Elise Avery, is not seeking reelection because of health reasons.

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To Hold Clinic
FARMINGTON The Oakland County Health Department will hold a Farmington-Cheneville immunization clinic from 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 12 in the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, Grand River at Warner. All immunizations for school entrance will be offered.

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