



RAP SESSION — Volunteer adult aide Jay Haines (center) raps with two young persons in the FAAC drop-in center, "Someplace Else." The wall hanging is a result of tie dyeing activity. (Photo by Leslie G. Zalewski)

## Youth Are Going To 'Someplace Else'

By BETTY ARNOLD

Special Writer

FARMINGTON Days when kids could gather at the corner drugstore have virtually passed. People have grown to fear the consequences when groups of young people congregate in public places; they are told to go someplace else.

Farmington Area Advisory Council has opened the doors to "Someplace Else," a drop-in where kids can go.

"Someplace Else" provides an informal setting where people can share their interests and concerns.

"The program does not have an imposed structure," says drop-in center director Scott Matthews. "People who participate can choose the activities they wish to pursue, and we will try to encourage and facilitate those activities wherever possible."

THE DROP-IN center is a pilot program, designed initially to operate from August through December at 30752 Grand River.

During this period it will be open weekly, Tuesday through Friday, from 2:10 p.m. to 6 p.m. Longer hours may be incorporated as programming develops. At the end of the five-month period, the program will be re-evaluated in terms of continuance.

The main objective which FAAC hopes to accomplish through the center is to provide an opportunity for interaction between people of varying ages, backgrounds, and interests. Director Matthews explains:

"Loneliness and boredom contribute to the unrest felt by many youths today. People need people and at 'Someplace Else' individuals can exchange thoughts and feelings, joining together in a variety of activities.

"Open discussion groups are led by paraprofessionals, and individual counseling by professionals is also available. In the relaxed atmosphere at the center, this can be extremely helpful to adolescents who are searching for a direction to take in creating their own life styles."

Many adults and young adults in the Farmington community have volunteered their talents to the program. These people have sought to develop and increase their skills in relating to people through training experiences provided by FAAC staff. Their training has focused on effective listening and methods of stimulating discussions among youth.

FAAC STAFF members Matthews and Jack Peuler are officially associated with the University of Michigan and Wayne State University as field instructors for social work students.

Four students who are presently working on master's degrees in social work have been assigned to them and will be actively involved at the drop-in center as well as in other areas of FAAC programming.

In addition to the service which FAAC will provide toward the academic advancement of these graduate students, the community will benefit from a range of therapeutic skills which the students themselves can provide.

Students from Schoolcraft, Madonna, and Oakland Community Colleges, as well as Oakland University, have also been invited to participate in the program. Several of these students have responded to the invitation. They represent differing academic fields, yet have a

common interest in increasing their awareness of human relationships and community involvement. Some of them will receive academic credit as a result of their participation.

"Someplace Else" is the scene of busy planning and activity. According to the director, an enthusiastic group of young people has already become involved at the center, and new people are dropping in daily.

Requests from young people have led to the creation of a workshop area for artistic activities including tie dyeing, woodworking, painting, candle making, decoupage, macramé, and even cake decorating. People who are experienced in these crafts have volunteered to lend assistance where needed.

Some materials are available, but for the most part the projects will have to be self-supporting. The group is looking for local businesses and individuals who would be willing to donate supplies to them. There is a display area at the center where crafts may be sold by the craftsmen.

On Friday, Sept. 24, there will be a "Free Fest" in the drop-in center followed by a jam session. Jam sessions with folk singing and playing of acoustical instruments have become a weekly event. Volunteers are donating the food.

Plans have been made to have speakers on subjects of special interest periodically. Dramatics is another area which has been suggested, and several people trained in the field have volunteered their services.

A calendar of activities will be posted at the center weekly.

FARMINGTON Farmington Township trustees will supply the Youth Assistance for Farmington agency \$4,990 to operate its 1971-72 programs but, while doing so, issued a condition for future funding.

The YAF (formerly Youth Guidance Committee) request was up from last year's \$2,200 supplied by the township.

THE TOWNSHIP board approved the higher amount Monday but warned that before next year, the various youth groups in Farmington must get together and work out a plan to centralize administrative functions.

The township also contributed \$12,000 to the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) and another \$12,000 to the Farmington Area Recreation Commission (FARC) this year.

Trustee Fred Lichtman noted a good deal of the expenses for these three agencies are administrative and suggested money could be saved if the three could share a common building, pool secretaries and telephone service.

David Coffin, chairman of the YAF and principal of Eagle Elementary School, promised to contact the FAAC and FARC to see what pooling arrangements can be worked out.

Coffin noted that the YAF's caseload and referrals have doubled during the past year. The extra workload has resulted, in part, from the fact that more time is now being spent in Farmington by Don McMillan, county probate officer assigned to Farmington.

McMillan worked in Farmington two days a week two years ago and is now here five days a week, Coffin said. Coffin described YAF's primary purpose as preventing delinquency and added that during the past year his agency has dealt with some 198 delinquents.

In planning for the funds, Coffin said: "We don't have the money to deliver when we should. We must meet our problems now and deal with them here in Farmington, not in Oakland County Probate Court."

"IT IS LUDICROUS the situation of your program come from Farmington Schools, which feels it is ill-equipped to provide the counseling and services you provide," Lichtman commented, "and yet the schools eliminate those programs which supplement yours, such as athletics and extra-curricular activities."

"There is more than one way to spend public funds, and we are doing things piecemeal."

Lichtman noted the township is spending \$30,000 a year in the YAF and the YAF. "That's a lot of money and, theoretically, is close to the amount it would cost for one semester to fund all extra-curricular activities in the school system. These three programs involve only about 400 kids."

Trustee Margaret Schaeffer commented that YAF was an adjunct to the township's police department and money spent for prevention could save much more than the money spent in police, court and jail costs.

The trustees asked that a committee be formed to study how to eliminate the duplication of administrative costs and report to the township before it forms next year's budget.

IN OTHER action, the board passed a resolution granting permission for rent supplement in Farmington Township.

The permission was a requirement of the federal government before rent supplements could be given the Metropolitan Detroit Baptist Manor elderly housing project under construction on 13 Mile across from the Glen Oaks Country Club.

Harold Larson, attorney for the Manor, says a third of the site's 33 acres is now being developed under a \$1.6 million federal loan.

Twenty per cent of the 101 living units will come under the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rent supplement program for senior citizens with low income.

The program provides that HUD will pay 70 per cent of the rental if 25 per cent of the individual's income would not meet the rent payments.

"You are not talking about only poor people in our community but also poor people from other communities who live here under the rent supplement program," commented Trustee Earl Oppenheimer, "and that's why the federal government wants approval from the local government."

THE BOARD granted a Class C liquor license, dancing and entertainment permit for a new restaurant to be located at 30555 Grand River.

The restaurant will involve an investment of about \$420,000 and will be capable of serving about 350 persons.

The board also authorized the township's planning consultants, Villan-Leman, to do a study on what effects the I-275 north-south freeway will have on Farmington Township.

Trustees voted to engage an appraiser to appraise the Waldron Park property in southeast Farmington Township that is being considered for park development under a \$100,000 state grant.

A firearms control ordinance was adopted which forbids discharging of any

conventional firearm anywhere in the township except by police officers, persons firing in self-defense or on target ranges approved by the police department.

The ordinance also states air rifles may not be fired within 100 feet of any building or across a public road.

THE BOARD voted to spend up to \$3,500 for a generator to serve the police department and township hall in case of a power failure.

Electrical power has been lost to the police department at least five times during the past year, Peoples said.

Clerk Floyd Cairns observed during the meeting

that the HTK Corp. has not dropped its plans to seek rezoning for a regional retail development in the township.

Cairns said the firm will approach the township by the end of this month with suggested alternative dates for a public hearing.

The planning commission voted to deny rezoning, the county coordinating committee split 4-4 and did not make a recommendation, and HTK is now planning to appeal to the township board.

The board accepted the resignation of Ted Griffin as township plumbing inspector and hired William Winerock as a replacement.



HAWAII BOUND—Twenty-two members of the Hawaii Plus Club for senior citizens sponsored by the Farmington Community Center left Sept.

18 for Hawaii. The group, chartered by Mrs. Bernice Lentz of the center's board of directors, will return tomorrow, Sept. 26. (Evert photo)

## Farmington Calendar

(News items for the Farmington Community Calendar should be typewritten, double-spaced and contain information about the type of event, date, time and place. Mail at least one week in advance of the event to the Farmington Community Calendar, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.)

### SENIOR DROP-IN CENTER

The Farmington Senior Drop-In Center meets Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Masonic Temple at Farmington Rd. and Grand River. Bring a sandwich.

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, Sept. 26, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be a Pancake Breakfast in the Farmington Masonic Temple at Grand River and Farmington Rds. All you can eat for \$1 per person.

### ZONING HEARING

Monday, Sept. 27, at 8 p.m. there will be a hearing conducted by the Quakerstown Village Board to consider a request by Max Sheldon to rezone to commercial property southeast of 13 Mile and Farmington Rds. Hearing will be held in the Presbyterian Church on Farmington Rd. at 11 Mile Rd. Residents of Kendallville are invited as well as village residents.

### KIDNEY FOUNDATION BOOTH

Monday, Sept. 27, through Oct. 2, the Waterford Jaycees and Auxiliary in conjunction with the Michigan Kidney Foundation will have a booth in the Pontiac Mall. Information on becoming a Kidney donor will be available along with other information on the Michigan Kidney Foundation.

### NEWCOMERS CLUB

Wednesday, Sept. 29, at noon the Farmington Newcomers Club will meet in the Farmington Community Center on Farmington Rd. between 10 and 11 Mile Rds. Program will be presented by Gerald S. Franklin Salon with emphasis on hair styles, make-up and fashions for 1972. Bring a sandwich to exchange. Dessert and coffee to be provided. For reservations, contact Joan Dudley.

### WOMEN OF NORTH FARMINGTON

Wednesday, Sept. 29, at 11 a.m. the Women of North Farmington will hold its annual luncheon and fashion show in Glen Oaks Country Club. Juliet Shop of Farmington will provide the fashions and the club the models. Cost of luncheon is \$3.75 and reservations must be made by Sept. 24 with Peg Wright or Bea Schumacher.

### MARYGROVE ALUMNAE

Thursday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p.m. the Farmington and Livonia chapters of the Marygrove Alumnae Association will hold their first fall meeting in the Farmington Community Center. Program will introduce Mrs. Irene MacKinnon, teacher and designer. Combining a lecture and demonstration of costume boutique items. Gifts will be presented as part of the demonstration to some of the women.

### FARMINGTON LIBRARY BENEFIT

Thursday, Sept. 30, from 7:30-10:30 p.m. the Welcome Wagon Club of Farmington will hold a card party to benefit the new Farmington District Library in the North Farmington High cafeteria. Cards, a salad buffet and fashion show will be featured. Tickets at \$3 each are available from Ann Weyer of 22124 Oak Pt. Dr. or Betty Lister of 2163 Oak Pt. Dr., both of Farmington.

### CIVIL AIR PATROL

Wednesday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. there will be a charter night for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) squadron being organized in Farmington. Charter will be presented by Mayor Wilbur Brotherton and Supervisor Earl Teeples in the Farmington Senior High cafeteria. The squadron is for adults and youth ages 15-17. Adult CAP members participate in search and rescue missions for lost aircraft and train for this mission, obtain aerospace education and learn about communications and weather watching.

### CUB FAMILY NIGHT

Thursday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p.m. Farmington Cub Scout Pack 45 will hold its family night in Cloverdale Elementary School. Parents of scouts from the Longacre-Cloverdale school attendance area are welcome.

### GILL ELEMENTARY PTA

Thursday, Sept. 30, at 8 p.m. the Gill Elementary PTA will meet in the Gill school at 21195 Gill Rd., Farmington. The "meet your teacher night" program will feature as speaker Miss Karen Milton who has returned from New Zealand as an exchange teacher. She will compare the New Zealand elementary curriculum with that of Farmington public schools.

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staff. It has been reduced by approximately 36 positions." Its most increased teacher loads, more responsibilities have been transferred to administrators, he said, but the number of administrators also has been cut by two each in elementary and secondary areas. Secretarial positions have been eliminated and custodial services curtailed.

MEANWHILE, the time is near for consideration of future building and renovation of existing buildings, Dr. Smith said.

Construction of the fifth junior high will alleviate overcrowding at Farmington and Dunckel junior highs and permit transfer of 9th graders from Harrison High.

But the junior high along with additions at six elementary schools complete the \$4 million construction bond issue approved in 1967.

Dr. Smith said the total time necessary for bond issues, planning and construction needs a minimum of three years, it will be necessary to begin this process in 1972.

Dr. Smith said, "The Bond School will need some major attention very soon. Continual changes in the profile of the community will require adjustments in the building program as time progresses."

Dr. Smith included public reaction to "rapid" increases in teacher pay among reasons for the millage defeat, along with a general taxpayer revolt and distaste for the minority understanding and sex education programs being started in the schools this fall.

Public Act 379, passed by the legislature in 1965 and giving bargaining rights to public employees, has resulted in a "tremendous escalation" of educational costs, Dr. Smith said.

DESPIITE THIS and despite modifications recommended at every legislative session since by school administrators and board members, "not one single change has been made in that law," he declared.

"The fact remains that there is an unrestricted hole at the bottom of the barrel, and until that situation is changed, this state will never have enough money to supply the demand," Dr. Smith stated. "It is not intended that the position of Farmington public school district is one of opposition to good working conditions and equitable salaries for its employees. Quite to the contrary, the administration and the board have recognized that salaries and wages being paid a few years ago were far from being competitive with those being

paid in business and industry.

"During the past five years, the situation has changed significantly," he continued. "Even with these changes, members of the printers union, the electricians and plumbers are making as much or more per hour than a teacher with the investment of a masters degree. There obviously must be some recognition of values, as well as restraint and control on both the request for and the response to wage adjustments."

AT THE SAME time, the superintendent called it "unfortunate that some groups and individuals seem determined to destroy the Farmington public school district."

"It appears that it is more acceptable to quote from the Pontiac Press and the Detroit News than it is to get factual information from the business manager, auditor or superintendent of schools," he said. "Even facts, when taken out of context or compared to irrelevant situations can become misleading and distorted," he went on.

Dr. Smith also pointed to benefits to the community beyond solely educating children.

"A budget of \$15 million, 85 per cent of which represents personnel salaries, does much for the economy of a community," he said.

"Farmington public school district is the largest single employer, has the largest holding of lands and buildings, the largest food service organization, the largest transportation system, the largest operational budget, and, incidentally, the most important product — the education of the children and young people of our community."

IN CONCLUSION, the superintendent said:

"The road ahead is not an easy one. There are major problems to resolve and significant obstacles to overcome. Public education in general, and specifically, individual school districts, have faced similar problems before."

"Farmington public school district does face a crisis. A lack of confidence and support from the community can result in further deterioration of the educational system."

"Confidence and cooperation can rebuild that which has been lost, and can provide the incentive to regain a place of leadership and excellence of which the community can be justly proud."



TIE DYEING — Carol Sundburg and Rob Ober, are practicing the art of tie dyeing in the "Someplace Else" drop-in center operated by the Farmington Area Advisory Council. (Photo by Leslie G. Zalewski)