

A site within a year . . . that's the objective," said Robert Chesley, chairman of the Farmington YMCAs.

Members of a strategy committee responsible for facility development for the Farmington Y have been hard at work since the group was organized in December, 1968.

Headed by Robert Chesley the group is broken down into three sub-committees at the present time. These are: site, headed by Betsy Nankervis; program, headed by Dave Morris; and facility headed by Robert Hall.

Nankervis told The Observer that the group is looking for a five acre parcel which would include parking facilities. "We are looking at 20 years from now, and we want to make sure we will be in the center of the population for the entire metropolitan Farmington area," he explained.

"We hope to acquire some property within this calendar year," he added.

The Farmington YMCA currently operates out of a farmhouse which is being donated by Norm Lewin, owner of the Six-Cutter plant.

Nankervis noted that the property where the Y stands has been zoned for light industrial and foresees the need to move sometime in the future.

In addition to this factor is the fact that the YMCA is cramped in its present facilities. Each summer the Y high school group, FATAC, draws more than 300 to its weekly dances on the city tennis courts.

Anyone who has visited the Y headquarters on Grand River just east of the city will find hard to imagine 300 dancing teens confined within the walls of the farmhouse.

Robert Chesley sees two primary goals for the Y. One is to be in the population center of the community in the future and the other is to be located where the need is the greatest and is most convenient to those people using the Y most extensively.

Chesley said the Farmington YMCA does not derive any specific benefit from the United Foundation's capital drive," Chesley notes, "and if we and the community can create a complete facility on the facility we can justify take a great deal of pride in it because not many people are doing this anymore."

At this time, the local Y leaders aren't discussing the type of building they wish. The feeling seems to be that any kind of piece of property will first.

When a site is purchased then the group would begin a capital drive to finance construction of the building. Funds would be solicited from the businessmen and individuals. No real price tag has been placed on the building as

yet because it will be governed by the type of facility and the type of program being offered.

Farmington's Livonia YMCA currently involved in a capital funds drive is seeking to raise a total of \$480,000. To date \$130,000 has come in from community sources.

The Farmington group already has a capital funds budget of about \$57,000. This has come from a variety of sources, but the largest by far is from the Chesley Memorial Fund which is more than \$4,000.

In addition to this Chesley Industries has made a donation of \$2,000 along with a \$500 donation from the FATAC group out of its 1968 profits.

The Farmington group has pledged some money toward the building of a facility.

The Observer has learned that when built the Y building will be the largest in the city.

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