

# the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## today's hot line

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## what's inside

### Centenarian Dies

A Farmington woman died at the age of 102 this week. She was born in Farmington over 100 years ago. For the story, see

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### Costly Vandals

Money matters were on the minds of the Farmington School Board members this week. They took action on a vandalism bill, and set tax levies.

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### DeMolay Honor

Two young Farmington youths have won special recognition from the local DeMolay chapter. We have story and pictures on

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### Beauty Queen Furor

It hit a southern church when the pastor's curvy daughter won a beauty contest, and our religion columnist has a few comments today about the ensuing situation. Read them in today's Church Section.

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### At Meadow Brook

Meadow Brook Music Festival enters its final week with a superb collection of stars. Pianist Rita Reichman, 13, will perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Arthur Fiedler. Ailing Elia Fitzgerald's replacement is Nancy Wilson.

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## FOCUS: Suburbia



Where has the summer gone? We can't answer that, but we do have answers to questions about the "Back-to-School" element of autumn.

Don't miss today's FOCUS: Suburbia!

## Rideout Discusses Future Plans

By MARY PADEN

Rev. Ralph Rideout, head of Farmington's Rap Line, was vacationing in Washington State in mid-June when he learned from a friend that the state wanted to interview him to head a new statewide drug abuse prevention program. A week later he had the job. "The first I heard of the program was when I got a letter at the end of May saying they were considering me for the position," he said Wednesday. "I don't think they've even announced the new position there yet."

He left for Olympia, Wash., a few days ago.

HE HAS mixed feelings about leaving Rap Line (which he initiated three

years ago and nurtured from a weekly encounter group to become one of the most heavily funded youth programs in the area); and about leaving Farmington, which has been his home for six years.

"I'm extremely glad for my six years here," he said. "You don't realize how important the friendships you have are until you leave them."

He describes the past six weeks as "grueling" - saying good-bye to friends, arranging to pass on the stewardship of Rap Line to Jack Peuler, a 1½ year veteran of the program.

The Rideouts - Rev. Ralph, his wife, Judy, and children David, 10, and Alison, 8 - came to Farmington from Somerville, Mass., near Boston. Mr. Rideout, who had been a pastor there, became

pastor of the North Farmington Baptist Church.

"Both my wife and I were raised on the east coast, and we realized our education was somewhat provincial. We wanted to see things the way they really are."

"About five years ago, a group of concerned churchmen got together and pooled our thinking on where Farmington was going. A lot of things started to happen at that time," he said. "I got into providing a service in the area of drugs, which was one of the voids then."

For the past two years, Rap Line has been Rev. Rideout's ministry. "A couple hundred years ago, churches sent out missionaries to different locations.

"I cut my eye teeth on social ethics and psychology. I am a missionary, not to a certain location, but to a social issue."

HE SAID he didn't know what the response of his religious superiors would be to his new job.

"It's not really an issue," he said. "I consider this an extension of my ministry."

Mr. Rideout warned that the drug problem in the Farmington area is "more dangerous now than it was three years ago." "I've heard people say the problem isn't as bad, but that's not true," he said.

"The 11th and 12th graders and college students who were experimenting with drugs have wised up and are not messing around so much anymore - there is less abuse

in that age group. But the seventh, eighth and ninth graders are using drugs, and some of them are going off the deep end because they don't have their heads together."

"I guess that in three of four years there will be a fairly heavy heroin problem here. The number of calls we have been getting from 19 to 22-year-olds who are using heroin in more than an experimental way has increased."

"Someone predicted that 1972 would be the year of the downer and that has come true."

"The problem in the seventh grade isn't too serious yet. I've heard that if you tell eighth graders that chewing bottle caps will give them a

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REV. RALPH RIDEOUT

## Water Meters To Be Changed In City Plan

A five-year program to change all residential water meters in the City of Farmington from the inside, brass type to the outside, plastic type began this summer.

Dave Jones, city public services director, said economics forced the change.

"The old meters are wearing out, and they are expensive to repair. By changing to the new meters we will cut meter reading costs, because the meter reader will not have to go inside the house."

Originally, the city had planned to buy a conversion kit that would make use of the old meter, but provide a meter box outside the house for reading purposes.

But that plan was rejected in favor of removing the old meter entirely, and putting in the plastic meter.

"We selected the Badger meter," Robert Deadman, city manager said. "They are one of the oldest meter companies around. We figured theirs would be the best."

The thermal plastic meter can stand high and low temperatures, and will not rust.

"The thing that should please people the most is they can detect a leak in the water outlets," Jones said. "The meter can measure even the lowest flow. A dripping faucet will send the meter hands going around."

THE EXCHANGING of meters began earlier this

summer in Floral Park, the city's oldest subdivision. About 310 homes on four side streets and Orchard Lake Rd. (in an area east of Orchard Lake, and just north of Nine Mile Rd.) are being changed during the first year of the program.

Most of the meters there are very old, Jones said. In the newer subdivisions, the city has required outside meters, and they will not have to be changed.

The city authorized about 400 conversions a year, Jones said. One man has been working on it this summer, and a second will join him this fall and winter, if possible.

The old gear box meter was subject to a lot more repair, Jones said. "This meter is much more accurate. An electrical impulse is sent from the meter in the basement to the box outside."

Jones said the conversion was relatively simple, requiring work similar to that needed to put in a telephone.

Deadman said the city was paying for the exchanges "so we could be fair with every resident."

Other cities are going to outside meter reading. For example, the city of Plymouth is offering residents a chance to convert for \$15 each meter.

Plymouth city manager Norman Gaffney said more than 250 water users requested the change within three days of the city's announcement about the exchange.

"This is not to imply that people on the board haven't declared their interests when a question came up. I think we have."

—L. David Stader

## Township Trustee Asks For Code Of Ethics

A Farmington Township trustee has proposed a code of ethics for township employees and officials.

The code calls for full disclosures of any conflicts of interest; violation of the code would bring dismissal from job, or office.

The code was presented to the township board this week by Trustee L. David Stader.

"I am proposing this code of ethics, detailing how employees and officials should conduct themselves. I didn't write this myself, but obtained it from Dallas, Tex.

"THIS IS not to imply that people

on the board haven't declared their interests when a question came up. I think we have."

"But if we have land or other job interests relating to something before the board, I think we should so declare," Stader told the board.

The trustees assigned the proposed ordinance to the board's personnel committee.

Stader's ordinance reads, in part:

"NO OFFICIAL, employee, or member of any standing committee or board, should have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business, transaction or

professional activity, or incur any obligation of any nature which is in conflict with the proper discharge of his duties in the public interest and that public office not be used for personal gain; and it is the duty of all officials and employees to avoid situations in which there could be a conflict of interest between their obligation to the township and their obligation by reason of ownership or relationship to any other individual, company or self."

Stader said his ordinance would specifically include township board members. In the case of removal of the trustees or supervisor, clerk and treas-

urer from office, the matter would rest with the trustees themselves.

•The new ordinance, if passed, would require disclosure in writing of:  
•Ownership of land in the township.  
Financial interests in firms dealing with the township.

•Employment by some organization or firm other than the township.

•"I have not asked that the value of land, or other salaries be disclosed," Stader said. "Just that they do exist."

The ordinance would prohibit the acceptance of gifts or favors that might "tend to reasonably influence" a township official in the discharge of his duties.