

# Farmington Center asks aid

By CORINNE ABATT

In the five years since the historic Langacre House on Farmington Road became the Farmington Community Center, it has made a major contribution to the area. Thousands have driven up the wind-

ing drive, admired the rolling wooded setting, and opened the stately door to find new interests and new friends. In the first year, 1,000 signed up for leisure-time classes. Last year, the figure jumped to more than 3,000. This doesn't include the hundreds

who regularly gather for weddings and parties in the rural-estate setting or the many who take the center-generated trips or attend special events. Since 1966, Farmington area people have been going to the center in ever increasing numbers. Now, through

March and into spring, the center is going to the people for financial help. Norbert Flock, recognizing the center's value to the life of the community, volunteered to head the fund drive.

"It discourages me sometimes, because people don't realize how much this place is needed," Flock said.

AT A TIME when many institutions are talking in millions of dollars, the Farmington Community Center is shooting for \$25,000.

That's because the center which doesn't receive support from any government group, local, state or national, earns the major portion of its monies from rentals and class enrollments.

The \$25,000 is earmarked for staff salaries, two fulltime employees director Mrs. Alberta Taylor and the caretaker and six parttime persons.

Anything over would be used for typewriters, a modern duplicating machine, brick, stone and lawn repairs and some inside work. The inside work includes improvements in lighting, heat on two enclosed porches, draperies to replace those no longer useable and other basics.

Parttime staffer Mrs. Virginia Kochans has seen the tremendous growth of the community center since she started with it in 1960.

"So many people think we're tax-supported, and we're not. I tell them this place belongs to you—if you don't care about it, who will?"

SHE TALKS of the hundreds of people she sees taking classes each week. "Students" range from the budding pre-school ballerinas bounding through the halls in pastel tutus, to the large group of men wood carvers, to the hundreds of teens involved in skiing, guitar and tennis lessons to the women studying handicrafts or the arts.

"And Mrs. Taylor keeps coming up with more wonderful ideas. On the weekend of May 31-June 1, we're holding our first ethnic festival with music, food and crafts.

"Then in July we'll have the antique show and the art and craft show in October. We want to have some outdoor summer concerts if we can get better lighting—there are so many things we can do that people have asked for."

Like Flock, Mrs. Kochans is aware that the center is just what the name implies—a focal point for local people residents, a setting of warmth and informality where they come to pursue and find the good life.

