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Buckler resigns as city legislator

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Warren Buckler, "the kid councilman," has announced he is resigning his seat on the Farmington City Council Jan. 8 after serving for three years.

The 29-year-old lawyer will join the U.S. Army on Jan. 11, he told his legislative colleagues at this week's council session.

After a brief military orientation, Buckler will be commissioned as a captain in the judge advocate's office, he said.

The city council has 60 days from the date of Buckler's resignation to appoint his replacement. If a consensus isn't reached within that time, a special

election would be conducted, according to City Clerk Nedra Viane.

Buckler was elected to his first term in 1977. He won a second two-year term in 1979.

A virtual political unknown in Farmington political circles in '77, he upset Joanne McShane who had been favored by many to become the first female council member in the city's history.

Last November Buckler easily won the third spot on the ticket with 704 votes. His closest challenger was Michelle Rhoton, who garnered 212 less votes.

Although Mrs. Rhoton was the next highest vote-getter, her spot doesn't guarantee her appointment.

TRADITIONALLY, Farmington City Council has reached into its ranks of appointed commission members to replace colleagues. Councilman Richard Tupper was first appointed in this manner.

There is some speculation over who would replace the junior council member. Among those mentioned have been Nancy Leonard, Farmington Historical Commission member; Lee Tatiff, planning commissioner; Jack Cotton, Farmington Schools athletic director and Tom Carr, a member of the Farmington Zoning Board of Appeals.

Development of senior citizen housing, historical preservation, construc-

tion of the new court facility and downtown redevelopment are some areas of accomplishment rendered by the council during Buckler's council tenure.

"The acquisition of the Warner Mansion has to be one of the most important projects in which I was involved," said Buckler.

This week the council agreed to acquire the historical home of former Gov. Fred Warner who served the state at the beginning of the century. Warner's heir's recently offered to donate the home to the city.

Although going into the military, Buckler intends to maintain his legal residence in Farmington and expresses an interest in becoming involved in city

politics once his three year tour of duty has expired.

A 1969 Farmington High School graduate, Buckler has been involved in several organizations before and during his council career.

A registered Democrat, he is a member of the Farmington Area Jaycees and at one time was on the board of directors of the Farmington branch of the American Cancer Society.

He was the council representative to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the Farmington Area Youth Council and Farmington Youth Assistance as well as the beautification commission.



WARREN BUCKLER

Warner's home becomes part of city family

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

With a sigh of relief from the Farmington Historical Commission, the City Council unanimously voted Monday night to accept the gift of the Warner Mansion from descendants of the former Michigan governor.

The gift includes a proposed garden, which would be donated by the children of Governor Fred Warner's daughter, Edessa Slocum, the last of the family to live in the home. The offer of the mansion on Grand River included the stipulation that the city purchase two narrow adjoining lots on the far east side of the property for \$30,000. Once acquired by the city, the mansion must be used for the public, according to the terms of the gift.

The long-time town landmark was built in 1867 and will be used as a museum operated through the cooperation of the Farmington Historical Society and the city. It will be open to the public a few times each year and will be used upon occasion for small meetings, according to the feasible study by the historical commission.

The study included suggestions for future development of the property including a gazebo, a sculpture of children at play, the restoration of the library, kitchen, porch, carriage house and the conversion of the basement to conference spaces.

FOR THE FIRST six months of operation, the city expects it will pay \$23,500 for the down payment on the lots and the cost of acquiring the necessary museum fixtures, according to city manager Robert Deadman.

The following year, the city would expect to budget about \$26,700 for expenses with the home's 1982-83 budget set at \$29,000.

The council decided the city should raise the money for the project rather than hand the task to the historical commission, according to Mayor William Hartsock.

If the home should prove to be a burden to the city, it can be sold under the terms of the acquisition. The city would then be able to recoup the amount of money it spent on maintenance and improvement of the home with the remainder of the money donated for the upkeep of historic homes in the state, according to Deadman.

The city manager described the home as being in "awfully good shape." A boiler was installed about five years ago the only repairs needed are a new coat of paint on the exterior and new plaster for the ceiling in one of the bedrooms, according to Deadman.

PRESERVATION OF the memory of the only Farmington resident to become governor as well as that of other founding families of the area were cited during the meeting as reasons for keeping the mansion as a museum.

Betty Bosh, a member of the Farmington Garden Club recalled seeing Edessa Slocum in line at a local bank one day. Mrs. Slocum was a member of the garden club.

"The teller asked her who she was and she said, 'My father help start this bank. There was a time when I knew everyone and everyone knew me and now I don't know anyone and no one knows me.'"

"It would be a shame if people forgot who Fred Warner was," Mrs. Bosh said.

"Farmington does have a heritage that's worth preserving," said V.O. Bates.

The only voice raised in opposition was that of Tom Duke, 29, a Farmington realtor and an owner of a home in the city's historic district.

He lambasted the city's budget for the home, calling it unrealistic and adding that by his calculations the home's budget would reach \$45,000 for the year.

His estimate includes what he called "hidden costs," in the project which included such suggestions as the gazebo and sculpture in the garden.

THE COST of restoring the building would increase the budget beyond the bounds set by the city, he added.

In rejoinder, Councilmember Richard Tupper countered that such proposals as the gazebo and the sculpture were made with a view to a successful future for the enterprise.

"I doubt if that sort of thing will happen unless it's a huge success," Tupper said.

"Capital improvements on the property have to wait until things straighten themselves out."

"We're not adopting all of the suggestions in the package," said Hartsock.

Some of the fringes won't be put into effect if the money isn't available, he added.

Duke's main objection, he said was to the city's ownership of the home.

"Private ownership is the best thing for the Warner home," he said.

"The government doesn't have to own it to enjoy it," he added.

His suggestion that the home be sold to a family was countered by Tupper who said, "My first impression was to find a benevolent owner. Where is that person? The property was on the market for a long time."

(Continued on Page 4A)



Holiday serenade

Somehow holiday songs sound special when sung by youngsters. The choir from William Grace Elementary School managed to make their sound even more special when they sang for the students at Clover-

dale school recently. For a closer work at such a joyful noise, turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

You can fight back

Holidays can spawn depression

Holiday time can be an unhappy time for persons adjusting to a different lifestyle.

Coping with a death in the family or a separation from loved ones can become even more difficult during the holidays.

"There is more depression among medical patients especially without their family. It's a family holiday and there is no one to share it with them," said Barbara Alexander, director of social services department at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

The recently widowed, persons at home by themselves and the persons who find themselves alienated from their spouses or family are prime candidates for holiday depression, according to Ms. Alexander.

Persons who are out of work and experiencing economic difficulties are also prone to feeling depressed during this time of the year.

"A person, whose coping abilities are not strong, needs to know there's somebody out there," she said.

For friends and relatives of persons suffering from holiday depression, there are a few clues they should heed if they don't receive an out-and-out admission of the problem.

BESIDES admitting depression, sufferers may exhibit a change in sleeping or eating habits. They may find themselves disliking activities they once enjoyed.

There may be a change in demeanor.

"There is more depression among medical patients especially without their family. It's a family holiday and there is no one to share it with them."

— Barbara Alexander

A cheerful person may become sullen and grouchy.

"These people need closeness and contact with someone," Ms. Alexander said.

Friends should include sufferers from holiday depression in festive activities. They should be included in everything from shopping trips to holiday parties.

"They should be participating in something so they aren't by themselves," she said.

Seniors should be encouraged to take part in activities such as a senior citizens' center to share with others during the season.

Some persons may threaten suicide during the holidays and these statements should be taken as cries for help, according to Ms. Alexander.

Instead of ignoring such statements, immediate help should be procured for them.



Barbara Alexander, director of social services at Botsford General Hospital, says friends can help persons prone to holiday depression. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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Funds earmarked for sidewalks

The Farmington City Council has earmarked money from the Community Development Grant program for the installation of sidewalks along Grand River from Gill to Halsted.

Farmington receives its share of the federal funds through Oakland County. The city expects its portion of the Community Development Grant funds for the 1981-82 budget year to total about \$46,500, according to City Manager Robert Deadman.

Projects funded through the program are limited to those which help low and moderate income families as well as senior citizens and handicapped persons.

The area targeted by the city for the sidewalk program includes apartments which have a large percentage of senior citizen residents. Oak Hill Nursing Home which has younger handicapped residents is also in the project area, according to Deadman.

In developing the project, the city will look at the pedestrian use of the area. It has one year in which to formulate a program to be funded with its portion of the grants.

As of now, the city expects to install sidewalks in about one-half of the distance between Gill and Halsted during the first phase of the program which is assumed will last for more than one year.

Physician named school fund-raiser

Dr. Conrad Lam of Farmington, consultant to Henry Ford Hospital's Division of Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery, has been named national chairman of the annual fund-of-one of his alma maters, Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Tex. Dr. Lam graduated magna cum laude from Hardin-Simmons in 1927 before going on to Yale University Medical School, where he has also headed the annual fund.

Dr. Lam, a native of Texas, has for

years shared interests in both heart surgery and music. While at Hardin-Simmons, he helped organize the Cowboy Band. Locally, he is conductor of the Franklin Village Band.

A noted heart surgeon, Dr. Lam performed one of the first aortic transplants and was honored earlier this year as one of 11 international pioneers in cardiac surgery. He is a former head of HFH's Division of Thoracic Surgery.