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Fifteen Cents



Governor's mansion represents buildings worth saving (Photographed by Gary Friedman)

City seeking historic registry

By JUDY OWEN

Despite the press of the 20th century from all directions, a small part of Farmington's past is holding its own.

The wheels began turning Friday to officially place the city's historic district in the National registry thus making federal funding for improvements available, providing legal protection for the property and, hopefully, encouraging further preservation in the area.

Michael J. Washo, deputy director in the Michigan history division of the department of state, toured the portion of the city set aside for the designation with several members of the Farmington Historical Society and representatives of the city administration.

Included for registration are 21 properties in an area bounded by Shiawassee, Warner, Oakland and Grand River.

"WE ARE the crossroads of three of the most important Indian trails in this part of the state," Paul Schrieber, historical society member, told Washo.

The Orchard Lake Trail followed north along Farmington Road and an-

gled off northeasterly to Orchard Lake, he said. It was probably used by Chief Pontiac.

Shiawassee Road generally follows the Shiawassee Trail, which ran northwest through the cemetery at Shiawassee and Grand River, passing what was once a cranberry bog and providing access to the interior of the state.

The Grand River Trail followed what is now Freedom Road to Lansing. Schrieber also explained that a 350-year old maple tree, still standing, served as a landmark for travelers in the area.

He expressed concern about a portion of the city that the society is interested in including for registration. This section along Grand River from Farmington to Warner was the site of a devastating fire in October 1872. Still standing is the oldest business building remaining in use at the northeast corner of Farmington and Grand River.

WASHO SAID that it is his department's policy to inspect all buildings before making recommendations for the designation of boundaries for the historic district. Photographs are taken of each building.

The designation is make possible

through the enactment in 1966 of the National Historic Preservation Act which allowed states to designate landmarks and get the federal government involved in preservation on a community level.

This provided protection for property of an historical and architectural significance, he said.

It has a three-pronged benefit, he said.

The actual designation encourages preservation.

Funding for improvement is available through grants in aid for preservation. The government and the property owner each pay 50 percent.

LEGAL PROTECTION is the heart of the act, Washo said. Federal agencies involved in the licensing of funding of federal projects cannot proceed until a study is conducted to determine the impact of such a project on a national register site.

The federal government has earmarked \$48,000 to Michigan for historic preservation. While this sum is not large, it reflects a healthy increase over last year's \$190,000 Washo said.

Further, he sees a hopeful sign regarding future funding.

Congress is presently considering a bill to substantially increase its outlay

to \$100 million a year for five years to establish a historic preservation trust. Funds from the Outer Continental Shelf act would be earmarked for this preservation.

Amendments to this bill would provide still more funds raising the amount to possibly \$150 million for eight years.

"FEDERAL PARTICIPATION in historic preservation is one of the ways that tax money can come back to the state and to the community," he said.

Washo sees a real increased interest in old commercial buildings although the present movement began only to save the great mansions in the state.

"With all of the shortages we have today, we should be more concerned with finding new uses for the old buildings," he said. These buildings have windows that open, features not found in many recently built commercial structures, and would be an advantage during power shortages.

Washo's office will now begin processing the national registration request.

"It goes to the top of the pile," he explained. "Our goal is to have this registered by June in Washington."

Damman's troubles brought friends and political associates to his defense Friday.

No one was more angry and upset than Jean Goré, who has been Damman's secretary since he came to Lansing in 1970.

"I think it stinks," she said. "They (the two reporters who uncovered the most damaging allegations) make him out to be something he isn't at all."

"THESE TWO guys think they're going to get a Pulitzer Prize left over from Watergate."

"Jim Damman is honest. He's one of the better people in Lansing right now. I'm from New Jersey and I wouldn't even work for that state if it's so corrupt. But I've been very proud to work for Jim. He's so dedicated and humane—no arrogance."

The secretary described how sometimes she would come to work and find Damman already in his office busy working out a constituent's problem. Sometimes he'd work until two in the morning on someone's problem, she added.

"They've taken an honest guy and turned him into something unreal," she concluded.

SHERWOOD SHAVER, who served with Damman on the Troy City Council, was unconvinced by the published reports that Damman did anything wrong.

Good turnout anticipated for election

Farmington and Farmington Hills city clerks expect a good voter turnout for Tuesday's general election.

Most interest has been generated in the few races featuring local candidates. No city offices are at stake in either Farmington or Farmington Hills.

One contest, between Margaret Schaeffer and Judith Holtz for district judge, covers only the Farmington area. All other contests, though featuring Farmington candidates, are in districts which include voters from other areas.

FLOYD CAIRNS, Farmington Hills city clerk, expects about 60 percent of the Hills' 26,900 registered voters to cast ballots Tuesday.

The percentage will be lower than in the past, he said, because there is some "deadwood" on the voting rolls, he added. A state Supreme Court ruling prohibited clerks from removing from rolls voters who had not cast ballots within two years.

Cairns said 600-800 voters' names were removed from the rolls annually before the court ruling. With those moving from the community, there were from 1,000 to 1,500 names removed a year.

Farmington Hills has 21 polling places along with four counting boards for absentee and disabled voter ballots. Cairns said about 1,000 absentee and disabled voter ballots had been issued by Friday afternoon.

NEDRA VIANE, Farmington city clerk, refused to make a prediction on the percentage voter turnout although she did say there has been "quite a bit" of interest in the election.

She doubted whether the turnout will reach near the 87 percent mark set during a presidential election. The City of Farmington has 6,900 registered voters. There are six polling places.

More than 450 absentee and disabled voter ballots have been issued, the city clerk said.

Besides the Holtz-Schaeffer contest for a new district judgeship, Farmington candidates are prominent in several other races.

TWO FARMINGTON men, Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton and John Campbell, are seeking the 64th district state representative seat being vacated by the retirement of veteran legislator Ray Baker. The district includes the Farmington area and part of Southfield.

Another district which includes part of Southfield but which features two Farmington candidates is the 27th county commission. Republican John McDonald and Democrat Gerald Farrell, both seeking their first elected office, are candidates in that contest.

Two other Farmington residents, Republican incumbent Pat Nowak and Democratic challenger Sheldon Toll, are candidates for the county commission district which covers part of West Bloomfield and Commerce besides a section of Farmington Hills.

Polls are open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Precinct maps can be found elsewhere in today's edition.

Hills man arraigned on felonious assault

FARMINGTON HILLS—A Farmington Hills man was arrested Wednesday afternoon and charged with the felonious assault of a police officer.

His arrest came following a high-speed chase an attempt to run over police officers, and escape and subsequent capture, police said.

Gary Johnson, 2922 Grand River, was arraigned Thursday morning before 47th District Court Judge Michael Hand. He stood mute to the charge of felonious assault. Bond was set at \$4,000.

Police said that at 3:25 a.m. Wednesday, two Farmington Hills police officers on patrol observed a car traveling at a high rate of speed near the intersection of Thirteen Mile and Drake roads.

A Beverly Hills police car was in pursuit.

THE OFFICERS joined the chase. When the car wouldn't halt, the Beverly Hills police forced it off the road.

As the three officers approached the car, the driver attempted to run them down, police said. He escaped into a nearby subdivision, abandoned the car, and continued on foot.

Tracking dog assistance from the Bloomfield Township police proved unsuccessful in an attempt to locate the suspect, who was traced through the car's license number and apprehended later that afternoon.

The case is still under investigation, police said.

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Milliken still supporting Damman

By MICHAEL CHARLES

DETROIT—An "exhaustive" investigation of James J. Damman's business dealings and personal finances has cleared the former Troy city official of any wrongdoing or abuse of power, Gov. Milliken said Saturday.

It is my strong belief that Mr. Damman did not violate the public trust, did not use his office for personal gain and did not abuse his power," Milliken said.

The governor said his staff made "a thorough evaluation of all the facts" based on available public records to establish that Damman did not use inside knowledge of Troy land development gained as a public official to make a private profit through the Lincoln and Co. a Warren-based land investment company.

A copyrighted story in the Macomb Daily Saturday also reported that Damman was not in a position to use inside knowledge of local development because the city's master land use plan was adopted and made public before Damman was appointed to the Troy Zoning Board of Appeals in 1967.

The story said Damman was not involved in the preliminary work which resulted in the drafting of the land use plan.

In addition, Milliken said his investigation proved that Lincoln and Co. did not buy Troy land until after the master plan was adopted. The governor said allegations that Damman used inside knowledge for personal financial gain "are not substantiated by the facts."

The investigation also disclosed that Damman invested \$100 monthly in Lincoln for a seven-year period (1967-74) and realized a profit of about \$7,000 when he sold his interest in the company early this year.

Damman said he notified his partners in Lincoln in March of this year that he wished to liquidate his holdings. "I did so because of financial necessity," Damman added. "I wanted to balance the family budget."

Milliken admitted, however, that he learned of the exact nature of his running mate's land holdings only last week despite the fact that the governor "was aware when major decisions were made (that) Mr. Damman had some relatively minor investments."

Milliken said he was only concerned that his candidate for lieutenant governor disclose sources of personal income and give an overall accounting of his net worth when Damman was selected last May to succeed Lt. Gov. James Brickley on the Milliken ticket.

"When the allegations were made, it became necessary to pursue the facts," the governor added.

Damman said his partnership in Lincoln was "of a semi-social nature."

He said he does not intend to initiate any legal action against the Detroit newspaper which first reported what appeared to be conflicts of interest between his personal business dealings and his public obligations.

The governor called a Detroit press conference early Saturday after he ordered the cancellation of his campaign schedule Friday to study the charges made against Damman.

When Gov. William G. Milliken announced his choice of James Damman for lieutenant governor, he called him "a man for all Michigan."

"I would want as a running mate a person with whom I could work closely and a person with integrity, respect, ability, judgment and dedication to serve the public interests," Milliken said. "I believe Jim Damman is such a person."

Conflict of interest charges against Damman concerned his behavior as a member of the Troy City Council and the Troy Board of Zoning Appeals during 1967-70.

The most damaging report, made public Thursday, said Damman and other Troy officials invested in real estate in the city while they helped develop a new Troy master land use and zoning plan in 1968-70.

AS SPECULATION grew Friday that Damman would soon be asked to step down, both candidates cancelled all campaign appearances. While Gov. Milliken met with advisors in emergency session, Damman waited at his Troy home.

Damman staffers were dispatched to gather documentation in an attempt to prove Damman's continued denial of any conflict of interest in his past.

Contacted Friday afternoon, Damman said flatly that he wouldn't consider resignation because "I see no reason why I should."

Asked how he felt, Damman said only, "I've felt better."