

Farmington Hills' growth

Historical commission brochure tells tale of one city

First came the Indians who found Minnow Pond useful as a camping site. Next, in 1824, the Quakers came to what is now Farmington and Farmington Hills. They settled on "the bank of a

small run" where they built a log cabin. As years passed, the village grew to add Botsford Inn, Philbrick Tavern, schools and churches. In 1972, the township area incorporated into the

city of Farmington Hills. The story of the journey from settlement to city is told through ink drawings and short histories of the town's landmarks in the Farmington Hills His-

torical Commission's brochure which will be issued in the next two months. The eight sites chosen for the brochure are those which have been distinguished by markers from the historical

commission. These sites include the Botsford Inn which was built in 1836 by Orrin Weston as a private home. In 1841 Stephen Jennings converted it to a tavern and dubbed it 16 Mile House. It served stage coach passengers and by 1860 when Milton C. Botsford acquired it, the tavern was a meeting place for drivers, farmers and travelers. Henry Ford courted his wife Clara at the inn. He purchased the inn in 1924, restored it and his family operated it until 1951.

Churches and schools are among the landmarks receiving attention in the historical commission's brochure. The Universalist Church, 14 Mile and Farmington Road, began as the site of New England style town meetings. The building was dedicated as a Universalist Church on August 28, 1853. Known as the Universalist-Unitarian Church, it was moved in 1967 from its original site on Warner near Thomas to the Gibson Centennial farm. It is the oldest Universalist Church in Michigan.

Of the eight landmarks in the area, three of them — Botsford Inn, the Universalist Church and the old German school — are the subjects of pen and ink drawings in the brochure. Nancy Mudloff, of Farmington, was commissioned to do the drawings for the brochure.

obituaries

CHARLOTTE W. OMAN

Mrs. Oman, 59, of Farmington Hills died Feb. 22 in Botsford General Hospital. She was born Dec. 5, 1920 in Canada

to Joseph and Lenora Wright. She was a member of St. Fabian Roman Catholic Church. Survivors include: husband, Donald Oman; daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Vick; Kathleen; Rebecca; sons, John; James;

Patrick; three grandchildren. Services were Feb. 26 in McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills and St. Fabian Roman Catholic Church, Farmington Hills. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

GENEVIVE EDITH SAILE

Mrs. Saile, 82, of Farmington died Feb. 24 in Botsford General Hospital. She was born July 15, 1897 in Illinois. Mrs. Saile was a housewife. Survivors include: son, William E. Services were Feb. 27 in R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Livonia. Burial was in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Chicago, Ill.

ANOTHER CORNER of hospitality in the area was the Philbrick Tavern on Power, now a residence. In the 1830s and 1840s, Nathan Philbrick's place was known for its accommodations, and entertainment. It was a meeting place for early township government. Local legend has it that the tavern was a connection in the Underground Railroad,

Rec department offers swimming for youth

Farmington area youths interested in taking swimming lessons can register from 10 a.m.-noon on March 15. Open to persons 18 years and younger, the lessons will be at Farmington High School, 32900 Shawwassee or North Farmington, 32900 Thirteen Mile. Persons should register at the site they wish to attend. The lessons will begin on March 22 and continue through May 31. Cost is \$14 for each child. Beginning classes will be from 9 a.m.

to 9:50 a.m. and from 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. Advanced classes will be from 11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. Suits and towels must be furnished by participants. Anyone with long hair must wear a bathing cap. Open swimming requires that all children must be accompanied by a parent if their chin height is below 36 inches. Lessons require that all children must be 36 inches or more at their chin height. Cut-outs are impermissible. Swimming suits must be worn.

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