



Views of the back and the north side of the Farmington Community Center show some of the flower gardens that make the buildings and grounds as attractive as they are. The gardens have been designed, planted and are maintained by members of Hill and Dale and Farmington Garden clubs. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

## Volunteers keep Community Center picturesque

By LORRAINE McCLISH

This month, the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission salutes the Farmington Community Center, along with the volunteers who work to keep the building and grounds picturesque.

The commission lauds one public building or private business each month recognizing those who have made a special effort to make their property attractive.

The old Georgian manor, built in 1869 stands upon a grassy knoll behind a stone wall. It is shaded by giant maple trees, which were planted by the late Mr. and Mrs. Luman Goodenough who lived there from 1915.

Twelve years ago, the building and five acres of ground on Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile, were donated to

the community as a public building to be used for local activities.

Now 7,000 people pass through the doors of the center every year, and the goal of the executive director and the board of directors has been to maintain its beauty and charm.

**THE FLOWER** gardens surrounding the southwest side of the house were planted and are maintained by members of Hill and Dale Garden Club.

Cut flowers from these gardens are used to decorate rooms in the house for events.

Farmington Garden Club members landscaped the south and east sides of the house with evergreens and flowering shrubs, and Mrs. George Moore, a member of the club, landscaped the

northeast portion of the gardens surrounding the building.

Both garden clubs have contributed to planting ornamental trees as memorials to friends and fellow members, enhancing the natural beauty of the landmark.

The building has recently been designated as an historical monument and a

bronze plaque will soon be erected on the north lawn.

**THE FIVE** acres of rolling hills surrounding the house include an outdoor stage with shaded hillside benches, where concerts, festivals and weddings have taken place.

An old spring house is visible just inside the north entrance and an even older log cabin is in the valley beyond the stage.

It is the intention of Betty Paine, the center's executive director, to preserve the 19th century beauty of these buildings and grounds, while at the same time offering a wide variety of special events and classes in the center's 10

rooms and three sunporches.

The bucolic spot, almost hidden from the rush of modern-day traffic, is a restored link between the past and the present.

Many of the events staged in the center are managed and operated by volunteers who work to provide the ambience of an area rich in history and lore.

## 'Shall We Dance?' staged cabaret-style

The Sweet Adelines of Farmington Hills are putting the finishing touches on a gala cabaret show, "Shall We Dance," which will be presented in Plymouth Culture Center on Main and Farmers Streets, Oct. 24-25.

The chorus will present songs and dances from the jazz and swing eras, from the "Charleston" to "In The Mood."

The Farmington Hills Sweet Adelines, under the direction of Jim Pol-

lard, are the 1980 Silver Medalists of an annual regional competition of women's barbershop choruses.

The cabaret show will highlight an award-winning men's barbershop quartet, "Saturday Night Feature," along with the "Bar-Joes of Michigan," a 20-member barbershop orchestra. A light buffet will be served after the performance. A limited number of tickets are available from Gloria Pollard, 427-5527.

Those from Farmington featured in specialty numbers are Louise Kiehler

in "Madam LaZonga" and Gloria Newlin in "Do! The Raccoon." Gladys Oberholtz is supervising the choreography.

The 73 member chorus has attracted members from a wide surrounding area including Livonia, Westland, South Lyon, Royal Oak, Southfield, Brighton, Novi, Northville and Plymouth. They rehearse at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Trinity Episcopal Church on LaMeara in Farmington Hills.

## Water-color workshop given in 4 sessions

Marjorie Chellstorp, water-color artist and teacher, will offer a Water-color Workshop in four sessions from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. beginning Monday, Nov. 3. Fee is \$44. Mrs. Chellstorp is represented in the

rental galleries of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Registration is taken in the center, 24705 Farmington Rd., or by calling the center, 477-8404.

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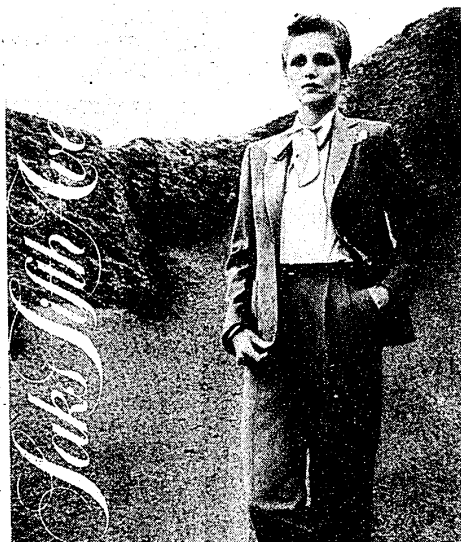
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