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1870 revisited

Community honors past with historical bash



By Craig Piechura
staff writer

They arrived at the new museum on its dedication day Saturday looking like they stepped right out of the pages of a local history book.

Horse-drawn surreys ferried gussied-up guests wearing period costumes to the Warner Mansion, a great, white Victorian home on Grand River in Farmington. The home was owned by former State Rep. P.D. Warner and later his adopted son, Fred Warner, who went on to become Michigan's first three-term governor (1904-1910).

But the event and the museum was made possible by the gift of Mrs. Edessa Slocum Warner, the last inhabitant of the home and the governor's oldest daughter, who left the home to the city upon her death in 1980.

To celebrate the renovation of the home into the new Farmington Historical Museum to be operated by the Farmington Historical Commission, the Farmington-8 Lions Club put on a \$100-per-person benefit called the 1870 Governor's Ball.

Even people who had criticized the high pricing of the event had to admit that the affair was carried off in high style.

Surprised-looking persons in cars on Grand River did a double-take when flashing police lights stopped them to allow the horse-drawn surreys to saunter past.

THE GUESTS' arrival was heralded by blasts from a long trumpet blown by Richard Levison, who announced the names the assembly mingling on the lawn.

Non-paying residents snapped photographs of the carriages and costumes while watching the party from the sidewalk. A free dedication ceremony at noon Saturday and open house and ice cream social Sunday afternoon were open to all and packed with people.

"These horse and buggies are just darling," said Dorothea Roberts who was watching the event from the sidewalk with her husband, Robert. "I think it's really nice for the city."

Among the 76 paying guests were Scott and Marjorie Colburn of Farmington Hills, who were decked out in historic finery. Colburn, who owns a saddlery shop, collects political memorabilia and sported four Warner

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The Warner Mansion set the scene Saturday for Farmington folks attending the 1870 Governor's Ball, a nostalgic celebration commemorating the renovation of the home once occupied by Michigan's first three-term governor, Fred Warner.

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Drivers' barricade curse will get concrete facelift

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

A dangerous stretch of Grand River Ave. will be redesigned by fall in a joint project by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the city of Farmington Hills, according to officials in both departments.

The road improvement comes close on the heels of a public campaign headed by businessman Eldred Mason and

supported by editorials in the Farmington Observer urging that the trouble spot on Grand River west of M-102 be redesigned.

The plans call for a 7-inch concrete curb to be built on Grand River where the eastbound lanes now split across from Diggers restaurant. Since 1980 there have been 33 accidents, one as recent as Tuesday night, at a guardrail located at the end of an access road that many drivers end up on instead of

bearing right to continue eastbound on Grand River.

To enter the access road which leads to Roger Peck Chevrolet dealership and the Grand River Drive-In Theater, the driver will have to consciously make a left turn and then a right turn to get to the access road which dead-ends in front of the drive-in.

Plans call for the installation of rumble strips leading up to the dead-end and an earth mound to be placed at the

end instead of a steel guardrail that drivers keep knocking down.

Some maintain that the oncoming headlights seen by drivers on the access road give them the illusion that they are on eastbound Grand River parallel to the westbound lanes. By building the earth berm, traffic officials hope to eliminate one source of confusion.

AN ADDITIONAL problem at the

confusing stretch of roadway has been that some drivers who reach the end of the access road safely end up turning right, the wrong way, on the two westbound lanes of Grand River located in front of the drive-in theater.

Plans call for the installation of a flashing light at the end of the access road which would flash red for drivers facing the drive-in and flash a yellow

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Canadians nabbed in counterfeit case

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

U.S. Secret Service agents recovered \$1,400 in counterfeit bills in the arrest Friday of two Canadian men in Farmington Hills.

Rallis Roy Kartakis, 27, and Sean Keith Lowey, 22, were arraigned Saturday before U.S. Magistrate Steven Rhodes in Federal District Court and released on \$10,000 bond.

The men, both of Toronto, Ont., are scheduled to appear for a preliminary examination at 2 p.m. June 1 before U.S. Magistrate Paul Komives in Federal District Court.

The maximum sentence for the possession and passing of counterfeit bills is a five-year prison term and a \$15,000 fine.

Farmington Hills police were notified late Friday afternoon by Keith Nelson of Meininger Sporting Goods, 28214 Orchard Lake that a customer had purchased approximately \$2 worth of tennis balls with a counterfeit \$20 bill.

NELSON, 23, HAD gone next door to Abbey Road Amusements following the purchase to change the bill.

He told police that Glen Kealy, 29, of Abbey Road Amusements, informed him the bill was counterfeit. Upon Nelson's suggestion, Meininger Sporting Goods employee Douglas Boyce, 16, followed the customer and his companion,

who were walking northbound toward the 7-Eleven store at 29318 Orchard Lake Rd.

As Nelson called police, Boyce followed the pair south to a Burger King parking lot where he saw two men drive off in a maroon Chevy pickup truck after exiting the restaurant.

The truck was stopped by Farmington Hills Police at the Great Scott supermarket, 29555 Orchard Lake Road. The two men were returned to Meininger Sporting Goods to be identified by Nelson and interviewed by six U.S. Secret Service agents.

Counterfeit \$20 bills were recovered by agents from Burger King, the 7-Eleven store, the Bicycle Hut, ACO Hardware, Brown's Drugs, Steadman's Auto Supply and D&D Discount Beer, all on Orchard Lake Rd.

POLICE RECOVERED from the pick-up truck a brown paper bag containing 46 pieces of U.S. currency in \$20, \$10, \$5, and \$1 bills; a plastic bag with 34 pieces of similar assorted currency; two pieces of garden hose and a disposable lighter.

The men were turned over to Secret Service agents following their arrest and processing by Farmington Hills Police.

"This is a case where the merchants were alert and the police did an excellent job in notifying us," said Radford Jones, special agent in charge of the U.S. Secret Service in Detroit.

Ross jumps into Congressional race

By Carl Stoddard
staff writer

Three candidates announced this week for the 17th Congressional District seat in the wake of incumbent William Brodhead's decision last week not to seek re-election.

Republican Jerry Rosen, a Detroit attorney, announced his candidacy on Monday morning. The next day, state

Sen. Doug Ross, D-Southfield, announced he was in the running. Today, Sander Levin, a former state senator and unsuccessful Democratic gubernatorial candidate in 1970 and 1974, added his name to the list.

Federal judges Monday approved a reapportionment plan which will have the 17th District include Redford, northwest Detroit, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Berkley, Huntington Woods,

Clawson, Ferndale, part of Madison Heights, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak, Inkster and part of Dearborn Heights.

Rosen, 30, was executive director of Sen. Howard Baker's 1980 presidential campaign in Michigan and was a precinct delegate in the 17th District. He

spent five years as an assistant to former U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin. He's a graduate of Kalamazoo College and George Washington University.

"My years of service on Capitol Hill have provided me with the knowledge

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Bennett bows out of political battle

State Rep. John Bennett has bowed out of the 17th District congressional race.

"I think I can be more effective here in the Legislature," the nine-term Redford Township Democrat said Monday afternoon from his Lansing office.

"I've been here 18 years. I'm to the point where I can get legislation passed. If I go to Congress, I'll be a newcomer."

Bennett had announced last week that he was seriously considering run-

ning for the seat U.S. Rep. William Brodhead will vacate at the end of the year. The only thing holding him back was his wife's desire that he not run for the post, he said at the time.

"The wife and I vetoed the idea," he said Monday. "But it was a good thought."

Bennett, who says he's at least 65 years old but won't give his exact age, says he will run for another term as state representative.

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SERVICE DIRECTORY
Tuesday, June 1 at Noon

Have a happy and safe

