

'Blessing' picnic set for Sunday

A "Blessings of Liberty" picnic is slated for 4-7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14, at Heritage Park, Farmington Hills. There is no charge.

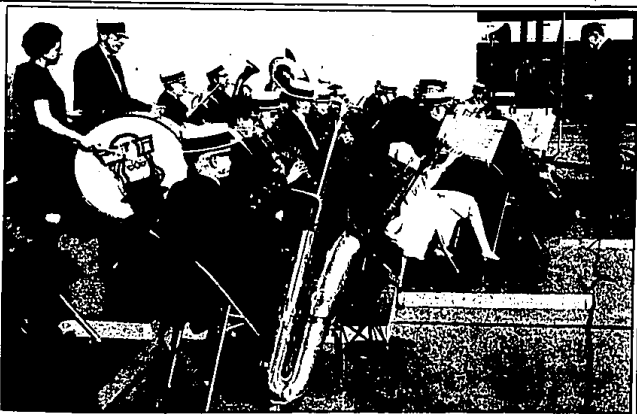
Sponsored by the Farmington Area Committee on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, the picnic will focus on individual liberties as told by area residents of why they or their forefathers came to America.

Former governor John B. Swainson will take these experiences and weave them into a short address focusing on the strengths of the Constitution, which over a period of 201 years has ensured these privileges. Dennis Phenehy will act as master of ceremonies.

The Franklin Village Band will play for community singing of old American songs, as well as give a "Salute to 100 Years of Irving Berlin," under Dr. Conrad Lam's direction.

The picnic is a do-it-yourself affair, says Jean Fox, chairman of the bicentennial committee. "Bring your own picnic supper, your chairs, blankets and/or tables. Ice cream will be available."

The event will be the first major



Dr. Conrad Lam will direct the Franklin Village Band during "The Blessings of Liberty" picnic in Heritage Park.

civic event to be held at Heritage Park, Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile. It is a strictly informal affair.

"Wear your blue jeans, your red shirt, your white shoes," Fox said. "If you'd like to share your family story of why you or your forefathers came to this land, call Judy

at 473-9501." These tales may be as short as one or two minutes.

"Although some of us shall be telling ancestor stories, for one afternoon we shall not be Irish-American, or Polish American, or Italo-American," Fox said. "Just American, that's all. Everyone is invited."

If your organization is not represented on the bicentennial committee, and would like to become involved, call Judy at 473-9501 and leave your name.

For more information about the picnic, call the city parks and recreation hotline, 473-9570.

Booster of elderly dies

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

Wesley Otis Walker wanted his life to make a difference.

He was the founder of the Detroit Baptist Manor senior citizen complex in Farmington Hills. He was the impetus for the construction of the Farmington Hills Post Office on 12 Mile.

Walker, 90, died Sunday in Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills. He moved to the western suburbs after retiring in 1962 as manager of Detroit City Airport. His 25 years with the airport foreshadowed the kind of determination that allowed him to leave his mark on the Farmington area.

Walker started working for the airport as an electrician, making his way through the ranks. He was a member of the Electrical Workers Union 58 for 65 years.

"He loved his job," said his daughter, Livonia resident Betty Bacon. "He was interested in children and took them on tours of the airport. He had a class of blind children on a tour and lifted him up so they could sit in the cockpit in the pilot's seat so they could feel the plane."

It also gave him the opportunity to meet celebrities, such as then U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy, who flew into the airport.

AFTER HIS retirement, Walker moved to Livonia in the early 1960s before settling into Detroit Baptist Manor when it opened in the 1970s.

The manor turned into a second career for him. "His mother was a resident of a nursing home in Detroit. She said to him, 'Please do something about getting a good place for Christian elderly folks to reside,'" Bacon said.

Throughout his life, Walker's determination allowed him to accomplish his goals in spite of his sixth-grade education.

"He was a staunch supporter of the older person. He contributed greatly to the local Commission on Aging," said Loretta Conway, Farmington Hills senior adult division supervisor.

Walker was a member of the Farmington Hills Commission on Aging in 1978-79. "It was a new field, and he was very knowledgeable," Conway said.

Walker also was the catalyst for establishing a post office in Farmington Hills.

BORN MAY 6, 1898, in Sampter Township, Walker served in the Navy during World War I.

Beside his daughter, he's survived by his wife of 65 years, Edith; one son, Robert; three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services were held Wednesday at McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills and Covenant Baptist Church, West Bloomfield Township. Burial was in White Chapel Cemetery, Troy.

The family asks that memorials be sent to Covenant Baptist Church.

Alkateeb storms from council chambers

Continued from Page 1

the council had undue influence over the planning commission, a charge that was denied by council members.

Hulbert also alleged that the council too often sided often with developers and specifically discussed incidents involving developer Howard Keating, the zoning reclassification of the Flamingo mobile home park, lot splitting, and a specific business dealing involving Marks and the city.

Marks is a developer in Farmington Hills. Alkateeb is a consulting engineer handling national accounts.

MARKS' BUSINESS dealing involves a \$17,000 sewer tap-in fee, due to the city for the past 1 1/2 years. Marks said it will be paid during the next 30 days and he expects to pay

some \$5,000 in interest and fees.

The fee involves his office building at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, across from city hall. Payment problems occurred because of mortgage delays, he said. "It's strictly a business deal — it's no coverup," said Marks Tuesday. "It's a receivable."

City manager William Costick said if the outstanding amount is not paid by Dec. 1, the receivable would be placed on Marks' tax bill, and Marks has been so advised. Once placed on the city's tax roll, the debt must be paid by March 1 or is turned over to Oakland County where further fees and penalties will be assessed, a spokeswoman from the Oakland County treasurer's office said. Property taxes are an automatic property lien.

"It's unfortunate this has gone so

long," Costick said. "We kept expecting to get paid. It is an item that is intended to be collected."

SORONEN ALSO expressed her views to Hulbert and the residents Monday. "I think all of us take great offense at the comments you have made. Mr. Marks' personal business with the city . . . is of no concern of mine, and I dare say other council members feel the same way."

"I know that you and your neighbors feel extremely put upon by the trauma . . . with Keating and I don't think any of us up here feel entirely blameless, nor does the staff. We have apologized many many times."

"I thought . . . we had resolved the Keating problem as best we could."

The city served Keating Commu-

nity Homes an injunction barring the company from using its pre-manufactured homes near Nine Mile and Middlebelt as models.

Councilman Aldo Vagnoni chided the residents for their recall threat. "I think it's a bad solution," he said. "We have elections every two years, and the majority of council is elected every two years. That is a better way of making your feelings known. A recall benefits no one, and tears a community apart."

ALTHOUGH MARKS made no

comments during the meeting, Alkateeb defended himself before exiting the council chambers.

"You accuse me of siding with developers," Alkateeb told Hulbert. "The night I jumped all over Keating, you weren't here. That indicates to me . . . you don't have many of your facts under control."

"I am glad all of the people of Farmington Hills are not like you. They come here and speak with respect. We've worked very hard on your problem. We've supported you in every way."

clarification

A pullout quote that accompanied an Aug. 4 story about the Grand River Drive-in was incorrectly attributed. It should have been attributed to Farmington city manager Robert Deadman. The quote was correctly attributed to him in the story.

The location of nine vacant acres that an Ohio couple wants to rezone on the east side of Orchard Lake Road across from Oakland Community College was incorrectly stated in an Aug. 8 story. The exact location is south of Rockshire.

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TIMES: 7:30 p.m. on August 18, 19, 20
9:30 a.m. on August 21

FEATURING: Preacher-Evangelist, Rev. Wesley Nelson

Thursday, August 18 - The Challenge of Living in Today's World...

Friday, August 19 - Where is God When Things Go Wrong?

TOPICS: Saturday, August 20 - Why Do We Need God When This World Offers So Much?

Sunday, August 21 - What is Unique About Jesus?

(Combined Sunday School & Worship Service)

Everyone is Welcome! Bring the whole family!

There will be: toe-tapping Gospel music, contemporary Christian music, congregational hymn singing and children's activities!

Followed by an old-fashioned family style picnic on Sunday afternoon.

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661-9191
The Evangelical Covenant Church of America

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Douglas J. Holmberg,
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