

Born last century, they look forward to next

By Tom Baer
staff writer

An upcoming parade heralding the coming of the 21st Century will feature three Farmington-area women who began their lives in the 19th.

Michigan Parades Into the 21st Century will take place in Lansing Saturday, May 11. Included in the festivities will be a Salute to Michigan Mothers with 25 of the oldest (ages 91-103) in the state participating.

The group includes Irene Livermore, 98½, of Farmington; Veronica Deneau, 97, and Rose Lathrop, 92, both of Farmington Hills.

"This is a way to honor mothers who have contributed so much to the state," said Teresa Plachetka, an aide to state Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, who helped organize the parade.

On Saturday, the group will be driven around the State Capitol in vintage autos. The parade has been mentioned and the pictures of the 25 women shown on NBC's "Today" show.

IRENE LIVERMORE is the oldest resident of the Farmington Place senior residence, according to her daughter, Carol Remington of Farmington Hills. She was born Dec. 17, 1892, on a farm near Cass City, Mich.

"She is good looking, very alert, active, plays cards, has a good sense of humor — and everyone loves her," said Remington, an only child, in her nominating letter.

"She can quote the poetry of Robert Frost and many others. She does her own cooking and other work." She's quite an artist, too, Remington added.

Clarence and Irene Livermore

'This is a way to honor mothers who have contributed so much to the state.'

— Teresa Plachetka
senatorial aide

were married 68 years. He died about 10 years ago. They moved to Detroit in 1923 after running a general store in the Michigan Thumb.

Veronica Deneau, born Feb. 15, 1894, in Detroit, now lives in the Farmington Hills Inn senior residence.

She and husband Clarence, a tool and die man, were married 60 years and had four children (three survive), 15 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

"I've lived a quiet life and all of a sudden I get something like this," said Deneau, anticipating the parade. "I think it's pretty nice."

ROSE LATHROP, lives with daughter Marguerite Boggs on Tuck Road in Farmington Hills. She was born July 3, 1897, in Detroit.

She and husband Claud, a construction worker, were the parents of 11 children. Eight survive. There are also 41 grandchildren, 68 great grandchildren (another expected this month) and 22 great-great grandchildren (two more expected this month).

"Our whole family is excited," Boggs said. "We should have quite a gathering."

Rose and Claud Lathrop lived in the Brightmore section of Detroit for many years and then moved to Southfield in the late '30s. She's been widowed since 1939.

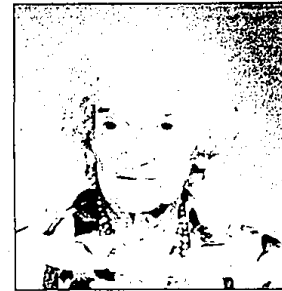


Veronica Deneau, a resident of the Farmington Hills Inn, says she's looking forward to the Mother's Day parade Saturday.

SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer



At 98½, Irene Livermore is one of the oldest residents of the Farmington Place senior residence. She'll be in the parade Saturday.



Rose Lathrop

Naturalist club revived, eyes youth movement

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

In the last few years the handful of members remaining of the 20-year-old Naturalists Club get together once a year and rekindle old friendships and their common interest in nature.

But times are changing. It seems — to the few remaining members — that interest in the outdoors, nature and wildlife is getting stronger among younger residents and residents new to the city.

That means the Naturalists Club may not be "former" anymore. If you love the outdoors, flowers, trees, butterflies and wildlife, club members are waiting and hoping to hear from you.

"We're hoping younger people, older people, anyone drawn to Farmington Hills because of its natural beauty, will respond," said Jean Fox, Farmington Hills city councilwoman and original club member.

At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday former club members — and interested residents — will get together at the Heritage Park Spicer House-visitors center and reactivate the club that used to sponsor tours, lectures and activities. Farmington residents also are invited.

THE FIRST meeting will feature naturalist Joe Derek of Farmington Hills. He'll tell you how to create your own backyard butterfly habitat.

That's the kind of fare interested residents will encounter with the club. Not just nature walks and tours — not just in Farmington Hills — but wherever members decide.

"There's a lack of knowledge. We can start with something here. We can educate the public about sprays, the bad shape our creeks are in," Derek said.

The gathering on the night Farmington Hills residents will find out if they approved a half-mill levy for eight years for parks and recreation is appropriate. In addition to sharing a common interest in nature, there's hope that this budding group also will serve as watchdogs of the city's parks and natural areas, particularly the Pelz-MDOT land, south of I-496, west of Farmington Road.

"We want to see if we can help the city with specific projects, like a wildflower garden, a butterfly garden and the arboretum they're working on at Heritage

Park," said well-known naturalist Tim Nowicki, a Livonia resident.

There's also been talk of the Detroit Audubon Society sponsoring a nature series, including one on bald Eagles.

Fox says the Naturalists Club is appropriate in this day and age.

"With development around us, natural areas become more dear to people's hearts," she said. "We can share programs, tours, knowledge and a feeling of oneness with the natural world, not just so you can get outdoors, but so you'll know about things. You'll be able to recognize and name things."

NOWICKI SEES the group as chance for people with common and important interests to get together and communicate. "If we can gather people from the community who are interested in the outdoors — there's a lot of expertise out there — it's a great way to inform and make people aware."

And if there's plenty of time after Tuesday's meeting, there's a good chance the group will take a walk and try to spot owls and bats and other wildlife in Heritage Park, Nowicki said.

The original Naturalists Club began as an offshoot of the then-new Farmington Community Center. The late Dr. Robert Douglas was a central figure of the former group.

"To get away from disease and illness, he loved the natural world," Fox recalled.

The group, however, was not a money making organization and later moved their meetings to the Farmington Community Library. In addition to lectures on nature and similar topics, the group published, in conjunction with the historical commission, "The Natural History of Farmington."

"The group dwindled and finally there weren't enough people to keep it going," Fox said.

That's when the few members who were left from the original group began meeting annually "to keep in touch," Fox said.

"Now, some of the older members are coming back. And we're going to see if with some new blood and the interest that's been engendered with the new trails in the city, the club can be revived."

United Way workshop aids groups

The United Way for Southeastern Michigan will award \$476,000 this year to qualified charitable groups which assist people lacking in adequate health care.

Applicants can attend a workshop 8-9:30 a.m. Monday, May 20, at the group's Detroit offices for a review of the guidelines for the 1991 Venture Grant Program. All non-profit organizations, govern-

ment groups and United Way agencies in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, Monroe, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties are eligible.

Now-in its fifth year—the program supports a variety of issues. For more information on the workshop, contact Gwen McNeal of United Way, at 226-9264 before May 20. The application deadline is June 17.

Drunken driver gets 10-25 years

By Helen Niemiec
staff writer

Daniel Bruce Brown of Farmington had little to say Friday when sentenced to 10-25 years in prison for a drunk driving accident that took the lives of two local men in 1989.

Margate County Judge Frederick Balkwill delivered the sentence before a courtroom that included Brown's father and brother plus parents and relatives of Michael Lynch of West Bloomfield and Joseph Allsteadt of Beverly Hills, who were killed in the crash.

The judge's sentence means that Brown, 26, will spend eight years in prison before he is eligible for parole.

Brown pleaded no contest to the two counts of second-degree murder on March 26, the day his trial was to start.

"WE WERE pleased," said Steven Kaplan, assistant Macomb County prosecutor. "The lengthy sentence was deserved. It should mean to an encouragement to others not to drink and drive."

Brown, Jerry Lynch and Patricia Allsteadt addressed the court prior to sentencing. According to the Crime Victims' Rights Act, families have the right to address the court concerning the crime.

Jerry Lynch's voice shook with emotion as he told the court about his son, how the fatal accident has affected his family and how his family has had to hang on during the two-year legal process.

The trial was delayed nine times since the accident. Judge John Sanborn originally was scheduled to hear the case but he withdrew in October 1990, saying that he would prefer a new judge be assigned prior to the start of the trial. Sanborn retired in December. Balkwill took over in December but was ill the day of that hearing, which delayed the proceedings until March.

BROWN TOLD THE court that he had nothing to say except that he didn't want to hurt anyone. "He will probably remain there (Jackson). He's labeled a murderer."

Kaplan explained.

On Dec. 16, 1988, Brown stopped his pickup truck on I-496, turned around and drove two miles the wrong way before hitting a car driven by Lynch. Allsteadt was a passenger. Both men were 20.

Blood drawn from Brown at the hospital after the crash revealed an alcohol level of .25, which is 2½ times higher than the amount considered legally drunk in Michigan.

Brown had been free of \$20,000 personal bond since the accident occurred in December 1988 and has worked as an engineer for the Saturn Corp. Originally from Pontiac, Brown moved into a Farmington house about three months ago.

He was taken to the Macomb County Jail immediately after sentencing. Brown is expected to be at Jackson Prison today for the start of a 90-day quarantine period, that includes making a final determination of where he will spend his jail term.

The prison options are Jackson, Marquette and Ionia. Kaplan believes he will spend the next year in Jackson, a maximum security prison.



MEET WATERFORD'S JIM HEFFERNAN

He will sign your Waterford crystal purchases Thursday, May 9, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Rochester 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Store for the Home, Birmingham

Waterford Crystal is the most famous name in the world of fine crystal. It is the only name that has been used for over 150 years. Waterford Crystal is the only name that has been used for over 150 years. Waterford Crystal is the only name that has been used for over 150 years.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard and VISA
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday