



photos by GILBERT LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Laura Myers sews pieces of the quilt celebrating Farmington's history. Myers and Kathy Bricker, both Farmington residents, are coordinating the quilting effort.



Ideas materialize around Laura Myers' dining room table last week. Pictured are (from left) Linda Diebold, Laura Myers (in doorway), Kathy Bricker, MarySue Munter and Gale Weisman.

Stitch in time

Heritage quilt celebrates city's 125 years

By Casey Hane
staff writer

MONTHS OF thought, design and hard work are coming together to form a quilt which will celebrate 125 years of Farmington life and history.

Called the Farmington Heritage Quilt, some 37 volunteers have offered their expertise, artistic skill, and just given ideas for the community project, which will be completed by May and presented to the city council to hang as a permanent display in city hall.

The project is part of a celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Farmington's incorporation as a village—a yearlong project spearheaded by councilwoman and former mayor Shirley Richardson who has been joined by dozens of volunteers in planning for numerous events. In the coming weeks, co-chairwomen of the quilting project Laura Myers and Kathy Bricker will arrange a schedule to take the quilt

into the community to let everyone see the project and even put in a stitch or two. Those involved will also be invited to sign a guest book.

"Anybody who wants to put a needle in it will be able to," Myers said. "It's important that everyone in the community comes and sees it and has a hand in making it."

THE CORE quilting group will take the quilt to most school media centers, where community members, parents and students will be encouraged to participate. The quilt will also be taken to other places, including the Mercy Center, so seniors there can participate as well.

"Please come and watch or put in a few stitches yourself," says a flyer which will be distributed in the community, inviting involvement.

The quilt is being made in an octagonal shape, with a tree hand-dyed by Farmington resident MarySue Munter. The tree trunk and leaves will be quilted, and hanging on the tree will be more than two dozen patchwork, applique and cross-stitch blocks and half-blocks each repre-

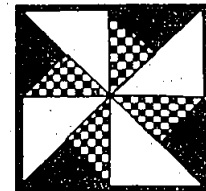
senting a historical piece of Farmington.

Some of the patchwork block scenes include a farm, a schoolhouse, the Warner mansion, Indian trails, the Underground Railroad, and the Betsford Inn. Cross-stitch projects include a map of Farmington, the DNR trolley, Local nature symbols including the daylily, cardinal and the swallowtail butterfly are also represented in the quilt.

The quilt includes the work of 22 Farmington and Farmington Hills needlewomen who have put a great deal of time into the project. Much of the cross-stitch work was done by members of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild.

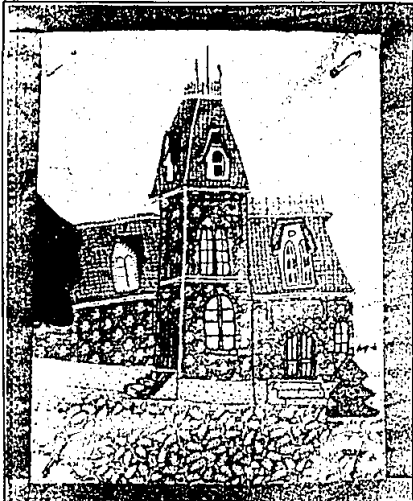
ABOUT SIX women recently got together at Myers' home on Shawnee to begin applying the various pieces to the tree. "It helps (to work together) with something like this," said Bricker who, like the other women, do many personal quilting projects too. "But sometimes you need your solitude to work."

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The 125th Anniversary celebration will also include a number of activities throughout the year. A Family Day in the Park this summer with old-fashioned games is planned, a historic home tour is scheduled for the fall, and the annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival will work its theme around the anniversary.



A patchwork square showing the Farmington Masonic Temple was done by Gerda Treglowen. It is one of two dozen which will be used on the Farmington Heritage Quilt, which is slated to be presented to the city in May.



The Warner Mansion, or Farmington Historical Museum, is shown in the foreground as Laura Myers and other Farmington-area women work to piece together the quilt.

Wanted: Descendants of founding families

Organizers of the 125th Anniversary Celebration of Farmington's incorporation as a village are still seeking family members who are descendants of original Farmington families.

Councilwoman Shirley Richardson, who is chairing the organizational committee overseeing the event, said she would like to hear from anyone who is a member of such a family, or knows someone who is.

Invitations to a May reception honoring Farmington's founding and longtime families will be mailed out to these people in early March.

Send information to the city manager's office at Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty, Farmington, Mich., 48335 or call 474-5500 for more information.

The 125th Anniversary Celebration will include events which begin in the spring and run through the fall, including a Family Day in the Park this summer.

Thief ties woman to towel bar

A 41-year-old woman was gagged and bound to a towel bar with duct tape in the bathroom of her Farmington Hills apartment during a robbery Thursday night.

Police said the woman was unhurt.

"Residents should exercise good caution, but we believe this was an isolated incident and that the robbery may have been set up by someone the victim was acquainted with," detective Sgt. Charles Nebus said.

The woman and a friend, 28-year-old Southfield woman, met at her Midwood Apartment at Drake and Grand River before going out for dinner. While at the apartment, the

friend said she felt warm and opened a doorwall in the living room, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

After dinner, at about 7:45 p.m., the friend suggested they return to the woman's apartment. The woman entered alone and saw a box on the stove. She realized something was burning and went into the kitchen, where she turned off the burners on the stove. She also noticed that the living room doorwall was open and she closed it.

The woman entered her bedroom and was grabbed from behind by a man who made her lie face down on her bed. The man told her, "Don't look or I'll hurt you," the woman told

police.

She said she felt the man push an object, which she believed was a gun, into her left side. He taped her hands behind her back and took her rings, valued at about \$2,000. He took her into the bathroom and taped her to the towel bar, and taped her ankles and mouth. Then he turned off the bathroom light and shut the door. After an unknown amount of time, the woman managed to break free and call police.

Detective Darnel Krause is investigating the incident. Also taken from the woman's apartment were concert tickets, a wallet and credit cards, according to the police report.

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