

History contest winners do their research

The Farmington Historical Society has named 15 winners of the 1994 Lee S. Peol Historical Research Contest.

Titled in honor of Peol, a prominent local educator, historian, and author, the contest encourages original research and writing on Farmington-area history.

Because of the large number of papers, the honorable mention awards, introduced in 1991, have been continued.

The winners were announced June 7 at a ceremony at the Farmington Historical Museum on Grand River.

Stephanie Unger, a Power Middle School student, took first prize for her paper "The Oldest Business Building in Farmington." She received a certificate and a check for \$100.

Unger's paper covered the history of the Kerner Barber Shop building from its origins in 1872 to present. The paper started by describing the original Grace Dry Goods business and how it sur-

vived the disastrous 1872 fire. Architectural styles and details found on the building were described, as were the long and varied list of businesses that have occupied the building. Also included were photographs and paintings of the building over the years, as well as numerous historic advertisements from its many tenant businesses.

Unger's sources included newspaper articles, books, research papers from the Farmington Library History Room, area directories and numerous interviews.

Family history is second. Second place was given to Amanda Buckelers, also of Power Middle School, for her paper, "The History of the Drake Family in Farmington." She received a certificate and a check for \$50.

This paper detailed the movement of the Drake family from New York to Michigan in 1825 and to Farmington Township in 1867.

The family genealogy was given

from 1800 to date with descriptions of the family members living on the family farm on Drake Road for more than a century. Numerous family photographs, stories and pictures of early Farmington were included as well as old newspaper articles about the family.

Buckelers's sources include family photos, newspaper articles, books and numerous family interviews.

Two Best in Age Category awards were given for two videotape entries. One was presented to Jan Gray's third-grade class at Hillside Elementary School for its production "Historical Sites from Farmington History."

In this tape, a large number of Farmington area historical buildings were shown with brief descriptions of people and events important to each site. Two historic home owners are interviewed and the Farmington Historical Museum is visited.

This tape was considered to be an excellent third-grade level in-

roduction to Farmington Area history. It will be reproduced and made available to area elementary schools.

Videos are entered

The second Best in Age Category award was given to Paul Been of O.E. Dunkel Middle School for his untitled videotape on the Farmington Hills Fire Department's history and the 1872 fire.

Been started the program by describing the 1872 fire, and the old methods used to bring that fire under control. He then visited a local fire station and interviewed Lt. Mike Garr, of the Farmington Hills Fire Department, to learn more about the department's history and firefighting techniques.

Been ended the tape with a summary of what was discussed.

Each Best in Age Category prize includes a certificate and a \$25 check.

Honorable mention certificates and prizes of \$10 each were

awarded to:

■ Rachel Pawlak, Power Middle School, for "The Farmington Civic Theater."

■ James Trenkle, O.E. Dunkel Middle School, for "History of the Masonic Temple."

■ Megan Douglass, Dunkel, for "Hope Lutheran Church."

■ Ricky Gundlach, Power, for "The House on 23700 Warner St."

■ Nicole M. Martin, Dunkel, for "The Life and Times of Luman W. Goodenough."

■ Alyssa Hillman, Dunkel, for "Lou Bressler's Car Gallery."

■ Kellee Fournier, Dunkel, for "The McCabe Funeral Home — 100 years in Business."

■ Daren Lee, Power, for "Meadow Hills Estates."

■ Lauren Fleming, Dunkel, for "From Runways to Roads, A History of Kendallwood Subdivisions."

■ Erika Rushlow, Power, for "Teenagers 1894-1894."

■ Justin Hawkins, Dunkel, for "The West Farmington Cemetery."

■ Matthew Wayne, Power, for "Where Did We Come From?"

■ Kari Berkesch, Dunkel, for "Willow Ridge Farm."

Copies of these papers will be presented to the Farmington Library History Room for inclusion in the collection of previous years' award-winning entries.

Downtown series to tune into America's sounds

Friday nights heat up this summer in downtown Farmington with the kickoff of a new evening music series called "Celebrate! The Sounds of America."

The six performances, beginning June 17 at 7:30 p.m., will be held under the gazebo adjacent to the Village Commons parking lot on Grand River. All events are free. Attendees are encouraged to bring their blanket or lawn chairs to best enjoy the lawn-style seating.

First to appear will be the brass

quintet from the Farmington Area Philharmonic, presenting music and interesting facts of the historic Tin Pan Alley era. Other performances will reflect musical interpretations from around the country including Chicago jazz, New Orleans Dixie, Rocky Mountain country, Michigan folk, and Miami Latin sounds.

The series was the idea of Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Judy Downey, who implemented a similar

program while with the Lapeer DDA.

"If the response in downtown Farmington is only a fraction of the turnout we saw in Lapeer, these public performances may become the highlight of our annual community events," said Downey.

Gelman & Grant Management of Farmington Hills, the event firm contracted to coordinate the Summer Fun Series and Holiday Hunting, developed the regional theme for the series and coordi-

nated the many details.

"Celebrate! The Sounds of America" is co-sponsored by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, the Musician's Performance Trust Fund, and The Reliance Group.

Specific schedules of performers and dates are available at all downtown Farmington retailers and health library branches, and have been distributed to elementary school parents through the Friday folders.



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