

COMMUNITY LIFE

Taking a stroll down memory lane

■ If you've ever driven by a stately old building and wondered wistfully what it was like inside, this is your chance to find out. The Farmington Area Heritage Home Tour will be Sept. 16-17. Tickets — good both days — are \$12. Advance tickets are \$10.

BY DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER



Houses on the Farmington Area Heritage Home Tour are like pieces of old lace, crafted carefully and laden with wonderful sto-

This year eight locations — including a number that have never before been featured — have been selected. And in some of the homes the current inhabitants tell intricate stories behind the bricks and mortar where they now dwell.

Their homes are more than shelter to keep out the rain and wind. By living in these homes, many of these owners feel they are trusted caretakers of an historic gem that continues to be appreciated now and likely for years to come.

Take the Lemuel Botsford home on Farmington Road, owned by the Seymour family.

"To me it's an investment in history," said Adelo Seymour, who explained that her family is among 12 owners.

"I've always wanted an historic home," she said. "If you spend the same amount of time and money on an historic home you do more to posterity."

The Lemuel Botsford house is 150 years old and naturally attracts at-



BRADON LEVITUS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

If the walls could talk: Les and Janet Newcomer stand on the stairway of their turn-of-the-century home — one of the most interesting features.

"Sometimes people will come up and just want to see it," Soymour said adding that the plaster work in the living room can't be replicated today and some of the fixtures are handmade.

"People don't even know how to do that anymore," she said.

And a present-day ghost is included in the history mystery behind the house.

"There's a story of a 10-year-old boy," Seymour said. "Some of the past owners saw him. We haven't seen him, but there's been activity."

See WALK, 12A



REV. SUZANNE PAUL

Liberal church has deep roots

On Sunday, Sept. 10, 1995, the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington (UUCF) will be offering two Sunday Services — 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. — for the first time in the church's long history.

Children attend the first 15 minutes with their parents before going to Sunday school class. A nursery is available free of charge for infants through 3-year-olds during services. A pre-Sunday school class is available to 4 and 5-year-olds.

The Universalist Church of Farmington was established in old Farmington in 1849 and will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 1999.

A few years later after the national merger of the Unitarian Association with the Universalist Church in 1962, the Universalist Church of Farmington (which was built in 1853 on Warner Street just north of Grand River) was moved to Halsted. Nestled into seven acres of rural Farmington Hills, UUCF has been, perhaps, a rather well-kept secret.

In 1988, UUCF called me to its pulpit. I'm a life-long resident of Farmington and was committed to the growth of UUCF and promoting a liberal religious agenda in the Farmington area.

In the past five years, UUCF has more than doubled its membership (210 adults and 100 children).

UUCF has become active in many community activities like the Crop Walk, raising the fourth

See CHURCH, 12A

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