

# Historic tour

## Philippine Speaker of the House stops in Farmington

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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In the Philippines, houses get old, too.

That prompted a delegation from the southwest Pacific country to visit Warner Historical Museum on Tuesday morning.

The group wanted to take some ideas for historical preservation back to the Philippines, which has its share of antiquated Victorian-era homes and other sites.

Philippine Speaker of the House the Honorable Manuel Villar, and Congressman Alipio Cirilo V. Badelles toured Farmington's premier historical site. U.S. House Rep. Joe Knollenberg's office helped arrange visit.

Historical sites are integral to a country's fabric, one official said.

"I think it's the responsibility of this generation to preserve what we have," Villar said.

Farmington Historical Commission member and museum docent Dick Carvell gave the A-1 tour, giving the delegation a

sound sample of an Edison 1902 phonograph. He also showed the visitors the kitchen's built-in oven warmer.

"We tell kids this was the first jukebox," Carvell joked. He explained the background involved with the furnishings, which includes many donated items.

That helps maintain the mansion's historical character, he said. Villar found the historical commission's volunteer concept intriguing as well.

"It doesn't cost as much, which is very important for a country like ours," Villar said.

Historical commissions exist in the Philippines, but they're not as systematic as here, Villar said. Much of what is historical is private property and left to owners to decide how to preserve.

"We don't have a conscientious effort to preserve historic buildings," Villar said. "People are taking it for granted."

The Philippines mirror the U.S. in many other ways, including its democratic form of gov-

ernment.

Villar is in his seventh year, which is relatively short time in the Philippine House.

Alipio Cirilo V. Badelles is in his first term. Badelles represents the 1st District, Lanao Del Norte, which includes a mixture of Christians and Muslims.

Unrest in nearby Indonesia has not adversely affected their country, the Philippine elected officials said.

"Of course, we came out of something like that ourselves," Villar said.

Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff presented the guests with a historical commission quilt.

Hills City Manager Steve Brock gave them historical coins celebrating the city's recent 25th anniversary while Knollenberg's representative, Shawn Clavatsone, provided U.S. governmental seal.

The visit carried significance for two Farmington area residents. Annette Hartsock, mother of Farmington mayor pro-tem Bill Hartsock, served as a U.S. Army nurse in the Philippines during World War II. She joined



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BIRKLES

**Preserving:** Curator Dick Carvell explains the history of the Warner Museum to Speaker of the House Manuel B. Villar. Frank Lauhoff, Pearl Samtillan, Annette Hartsock and Bill Hartsock are local folks who toured the museum with the Philippine delegation. Annette Hartsock served in the Philippines as an Army nurse during World War II.

her son in welcoming the Philippine contingent.

Hills resident Pearl Samtillan helped arrange the visit, which included lunch at The Whitney in Detroit and other historical

home tours. Samtillan's niece, Joyce Crisanto, is an aide to Villar.

"Very seldom do we have the speaker of the House visiting," he said.

After the tour, Bill Hartsock got down to brass tacks on election day.

"When are you up for election? Let's talk politics," Hartsock said.

## Light changes expected to be to neighbor's liking

BY TIM SMITH  
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Don Kenely wasn't at last week's meeting between Farmington High School and city officials to discuss his recent complaint about parking lot and athletic field lights glaring into his nearby home.

But, said FHS Principal John Barrett, some changes to the lighting system should be to Kenely's liking.

"It was a very good meeting, very productive," Barrett said Friday. "I think we'll work out some kind of plan that will work and make the neighbor happy."

Among city officials at the meeting were Public Safety Director Gary Goss and Public Services Director Kevin Gushman. Joining Barrett from the school district were Jim Myers, executive director of K-12 instruction and student services

and Ron Aten, district architect.

In a letter from Myers to Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff, forthcoming accommodations include: turning field lights off no more than 45 minutes following a contest to allow for safe and orderly crowd exit; putting lights for the lot facing Shawassee on a separate switch, which a custodian can turn off after the lot empties; putting all other parking lot lights on a timer to go off at midnight. Also, lights facing Shawassee will have "back shields" attached to prevent glare toward the homes where Kenely lives.

According to Myers, he had a "good conversation" with Kenely on Friday about the corrections spelled out in Myers' letter.

"He (Kenely) said it sounded very good to him," Myers said. "He wanted to make sure there was a timetable on that, but I said I didn't know that yet."

(Hopefully) it will be all done within 60 days."

Myers added that "we don't have any nighttime activity during that time."

Kenely could not be reached for comment Friday. But the Lakeway resident read a two-

page letter about the lights during the Monday, Oct. 18, Farmington City Council meeting.

In his letter, Kenely expressed disappointment that assurances he said were made by the district during 1998 meetings of the lighting committee were not

kept. Those assurances included: field and lot lights being turned off at a reasonable hour, perhaps by 9:30 or 10 p.m. on game nights; that a school official "who would be empowered to respond to issues, concerns or problems" be accessible to residents.

Apparently, Kenely became upset when he arrived home on the night of Aug. 28 to find parking lot lights shining on his house. The only person he was able to communicate with at the time was a Farmington Public Safety dispatcher.

## Hills police to get grant to fight crime

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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The Farmington Hills Police Department is getting another chunk of federal money to buy crime fighting equipment.

Through the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance, the department is receiving \$59,021 as part of a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. Farmington Hills contributes \$6,658 as part of 10-percent local match, which will come from the department's drug forfeiture fund.

The department is expected to receive the money by January.

Money will be used to buy a digital workstation with microfilm printer and reader, \$16,000; two laser speed-detection devices, \$17,000; 15 concealable ballistic vests, \$20,000; and

crime prevention materials and presentations, \$12,679.

During a public hearing Oct. 26, Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said the department has two years to spend the money.

The department's Crime Prevention Advisory Committee will oversee grant spending. Such funds cover items not in the general budget and save taxpayers money.

"It helps," said Sgt. Tim Connor, who prepared the report for Farmington Hills City Council member. "If not for this federal money, these things wouldn't be purchased."

The department has received four U.S. Justice Assistance grants worth \$229,000. Such awards are designed to cut crime and must be used to buy equipment, materials and technology.

## City to hold hearing on block grant money

BY TIM SMITH  
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The Farmington City Council will hold a public hearing at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 15 regarding the 2000-2001 federal Community Block Grant Program, said city manager Frank Lauhoff.

Lauhoff, who reported on the program during Monday's council meeting, said senior citizens again will be the beneficiaries of block grant money - which this year amounts to \$32,816.

"We're asking the council to consider putting all of that (money) into senior programs," said Lauhoff. Those programs are based out of the William Costick Activities Center on 11

Mile Road.

A portion of funds also would help pay for capital improvements to the facility, Lauhoff added.

"It's similar to the last several years," said Lauhoff, about earmarking the block grant money for senior citizen programs.

Lauhoff emphasized that a public hearing is a requirement to receive the city share. "We won't get the money unless we go through the (public hearing) process."

Although it is federal money, the Community Development Block Grant Program is administered by Oakland County, Lauhoff said.

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