

Uncle Sam gets the vote

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Sometimes it just about takes a song and dance to get voters to come to the polls, especially for local races.

Both Marsha Droz and Jason Wastuck of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission know that. So does Chris Rowland, a cable show host.

Rowland was more than willing to do an Uncle Sam-type red, white and blue outfit Monday, complete with top hat, to do a little skit in front of the Masonic Temple at Grand River and Farmington Roads for SVOCC filming urging people to get the vote out.

"You got to vote," Rowland sang. "Make a difference. Uncle Sam wants you."

Motorists quickly gave Rowland a resounding toot on their car horns as they drove past, though they couldn't hear his routine.

The spot will be aired next month in time for the Nov. 6 election.

Also, Linda de Poorter of the League of Women Voters will explain to cable viewers in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi, how to judge a candidate, Droz said.

For more information about scheduling and programs, call SVOCC at (248) 473-7266.

Conference from page A1

the week."

Now a private consultant in human relations, Lobenthal was Anti-Defamation League director from 1992-96, a long time commentator on National Public Radio Detroit affiliate WDET, and has been appointed to international posts by U.S. presidents Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon.

"Living harmoniously together is as imperative as these other changes and we can do it," Lobenthal said.

"Think of the concept of drug-free zones. Farmington and Farmington Hills have to become hate-free zones," Lobenthal said. "We have to keep getting closer, even if we never get there."

"And as terrified as we are that our kids might use illegal drugs, we should be as terrified that they will develop prejudices."

He said the community should mobilize to increase understanding as it might to support a mile-long.

While Lobenthal urged understanding, he noted that in some cultures, perceived insults to a family "are unresolvable until the insult has been avenged."

In such cases, he said society can choose not to challenge that belief in vengeance. But society can insist that certain rules be followed, to prohibit a violent act of vengeance.

Joe Papi of West Bloomfield

'Farmington and Farmington Hills have to become hate-free zones.'

Dick Lobenthal
—Conference speaker

said he was impressed by the message that striving for goals is valuable. "Because you can't obtain 100 percent of a goal doesn't mean you shouldn't try," he said, echoing the keynote speaker.

Lolita Houston reacted to Lobenthal's remarks, saying, "I guess I never considered how to accomplish community unity. It has to be going continually, not once a month."

Houston, an African-American, said she recently moved to Farmington Hills, and that she brought her children to the conference to expose them to broader cultural experiences.

Mary Biedron, minister of North Congregational Church, said she was struck by Lobenthal's message that parents should be horrified about children developing prejudices. "We should be concerned what we're communicating to one another and our children about living together," she said.

The mini-conference was held in conjunction with the Heritage Festival Celebration, Sept. 14-23.

LIBRARY NEWS

Need to know about a company you'd like to interview with? Looking for stock histories and analyst reports for potential investments?

These are the kinds of questions that will be answered in a business program at the Farmington Community Library on Monday, Sept. 24 from 7-8:30 p.m. The program will feature the Library's business databases and show how they can be used for business research.

"Our objective in offering this program is to introduce area businesses, job seekers, investors and students to our online business databases," said Sharon Vincent, Head of Adult Services.

The program will include a demonstration of four databases: Associations Unlimited, with information on approximately 444,000 international and U.S. nonprofit membership organizations; Business and Company Resource Center, with information on more than 300,000 companies; Investext Plus, which provides research and reports

from more than 500 investment banks and 190 trade associations; Primark Global Access, which offers extensive financial information on thousands of U.S. and international companies; and Reference USA's business and residential data bases.

The program will also include a demonstration of business e-books, electronic versions of print books that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from any computer connected to the Internet. Call 563-0300 for advance registration.

Mansion from page A1

charged with protecting and preserving the mansion for the Farmington community. She will be paid a small stipend of about \$1,000 to cover her expenses, according to Lauhoff. This may increase later, he said.

"We will all move forward together," Horvath said at Monday's council meeting. She expressed her gratitude and hoped for the community's support.

Horvath is a longtime, unpaid professional at the Cranbrook Institute of Science and other institutions in Franklin, Port Huron, Romeo, Holly and Montclair. She has experience in education, collections, exhibit development and installation. She has volunteered at other institutions related to museum and

anthropology.

Horvath holds a master's degree in museum study from the University of Oklahoma and a bachelor's degree in sociology/archaeology from Oakland University.

"Through study sessions, city council with city staff and Ms. Horvath, have developed a mission statement, organizational chart and job description for a museum director," Lauhoff said.

"The appointment of a museum director will help establish clear lines of authority for activities at this location."

Rental price increase

The council also voted to increase the charges for rental of the mansion grounds for weddings. The two-hour minimum

reservation was eliminated. The new rates for reservation up to four hours increase from \$300 to \$450 and reservations from four to eight hours increase from \$450 to \$675.

There were about 26 weddings at the mansion last season.

The city reviewed rental costs throughout the Farmington, Livonia and Northville, Lauhoff said.

"This revenue helps to offset the increase in maintenance costs associated with increased usage," Lauhoff said. "Over the last several years, the use of the grounds for weddings and other photo sessions has increased significantly. With that increase came conflicts between scheduled and unscheduled events."

The Warner Mansion committee recommended eliminating the two-hour reservation. New signs were approved and will be installed near the driveway entrance which can be changed daily to indicate "Grounds Reserved."

Councilwoman Joanne McShane mentioned her experience at the mansion when another wedding party came onto the grounds without a reservation and wanted to take photos. "We had to shoo them off, because we had a solemn event going on and we paid for the grounds," McShane said.

Councilman Arnold Campbell cast the only no vote, preferring to let Horvath review the fee structure first before deciding on an increase.

Resident Nancy Leonard thought two hours was enough time to hold a wedding and many wouldn't need a four-hour block.

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