

Donation kicks off pavilion project

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Civic booster Walt Sundquist, owner of the Heeneey Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington, shies away from any deserved bragging rights in the community.

That was no different on Oct. 4. Sundquist quietly and humbly presented \$75,000 toward the development of the Walter E. Sundquist Community Pavilion as community newspapers snapped photos of the pavilion committee with Sundquist in front of his Farmington Road business.

Sundquist's donation was the first step toward development of the pavilion, to be placed in the Downtown Farmington Center at Grand River and Farmington Roads. The pavilion with bathrooms will cost \$150,000 and will be privately funded.

Sundquist stuck to the statement he prepared the previous day for the media.

"For the nearly 40-year opportunity to serve the families of the Farmington-area communities, I've searched for a way to give something back — some way



Downtown donation: Bruce Fowler, Walter Sundquist, Frank Clappison and David Judge display an artist's rendering of the new pavilion.

Through the years, Farmington Observer articles have cited Sundquist's reputation as one of downtown Farmington's biggest fans and an avid supporter of Downtown Development Authority projects.

The pavilion will sit on city-

man. Besides Sundquist's donation, \$15,000 has been received from Center Holding Company, of which Clappison is a member. The company holds the T. J. Maxx block of stores in downtown Farmington, according to

ity renovation project in the downtown center area which will include complete rebuilding of the parking lot, brick walkways, additional trees and pedestrian lamps," Downey said.

About three years ago, Judge and Gajewski talked about the possibility of creating a pavilion. "Six months later, we finished the study and brought it to the DDA," Judge said.

The original idea came from Gajewski, Downey said.

The pavilion will be used for The Farmer's Market, Founders Festival Events, downtown kids' days, special events, corporate/group rental, concerts, sheltered parking and educational events.

Anyone interested in making a donation should contact Downey at (248) 473-7276.

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more severe traffic violation once he challenged an original ticket in district court.

"And the mayor, the city council and the chief of police are saying they haven't done anything wrong. It flies in the face of the citizens of Farmington Hills, and they don't care," Gordanier said.

"This department is one of the

finest departments in the country," Dwyer responded.

"It was proven through FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests that no officer in this department ever violated anyone's rights or violated any laws, or violated any rules or regulations of a law enforcement officer. His complaints were thoroughly investigated and were

found to have no foundation.

"He owes the city administration and its fire and police departments an apology."

Gordanier said he and his wife would support candidates challenging the incumbents for mayor and city council in the Nov. 6 election.

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member of the audience to repeat a specific phrase or thought to the person next to him or her.

Bell urged the group to get involved and find something to join. "It's not easy to stand up for your convictions. Be willing to speak up."

He also touched on issues of segregation and integration, saying everyone should "keep the fire of love hot for all."

Bell spoke at various events in the community last week capitalizing on the fact that the community's most important, underlying asset is respect, and that transcends all other assets.

He encouraged all community sectors to re-establish respect and support for one another and to treat one another with dignity while promoting safe and caring neighborhoods.

Bell spoke to a crowd made up of some Farmington school employees, school board members, parents and a group of students from Boys and Girls Republic, a court-adjudicated program for 13-18 year olds in Farmington Hills.

"This was dynamic and useful," said Dwayne Albert, a treatment specialist at Boys and Girls Republic. "My children needed to hear it."

It's difficult to motivate those teens, he said.

Farmington School Board Member Pam Christian said she was at North Farmington High School earlier in the day and the kids were responsive to Bell. "They said he was great," Christian said.

"Those who missed this missed a lot," said Kathy Ostrander, a school district employee.

Added Marsha Hight, another school district employee, "He's very versatile. His speech was very effective."

Bell urged the crowd to stand up when they perceive something is wrong.

He told a story about a community where someone burned a swastika onto a lawn. He asked each audience member to say to each other, "We don't do that here."

Bell emphasized connectiveness, which makes each community whole.

"Some people think you are less of an American if you have an accent," Bell said. "It's not where you came from but where you are going."

GRIP 2001 was sponsored by the Call to Action Coalition, Farmington Families in Action, Farmington Public Schools, Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council, and the Farmington Department of Public Safety and Farmington Hills Police Department.

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