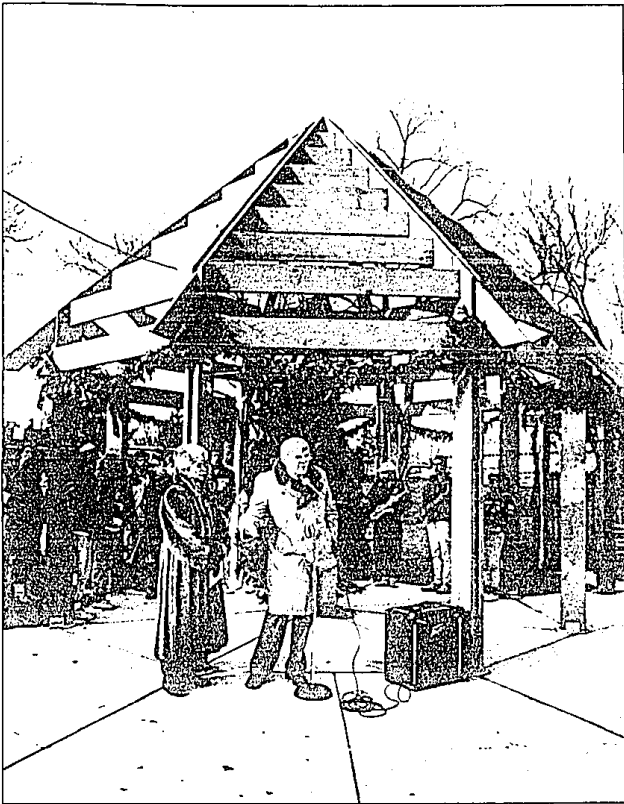


Farmington gazebo makes a grand entrance



DOUGLAS SUSALLA/staff photographer

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Farmington's new \$40,000 gazebo-pergola was officially dedicated Nov. 22, with hoopla from the Farmington High band and attendance by city officials.

A year-long project, the gathering spot, sandwiched between the Village Commons shopping center and Farmington Place Apartments on the north side of Grand River, east of Farmington Road, represents the generosity of 74 donors.

Walter Sundquist, a member of the Gazebo/Pergola Fund committee and a gazebo aficionado, presented the gazebo to the city.

"We wanted to achieve two objectives," said Wendy Strip Sittsamer, a committee member. "One was to create an interesting visual element for people walking or driving by. The other was for it to just be a nice place to be for seniors, those eating lunches, etc."

She said the Farmington Community Library is considering holding story hours there next year.

Contributors who gave more than \$500 are listed on a plaque attached to a 2,700-pound boulder on the property, just north of the structure.

The first gazebo that Sundquist built sits directly across the street from the new structure in downtown Farmington.

BY DEFINITION, a gazebo is a pavilion or belvedere. A pergola is an arbor or passageway with a roof or trellis work on which climbing plants are trained to grow. Two pergolas, known as seating areas, flank the Farmington's new gazebo.

"What we are really trying to say as we present the gazebo to the city is, 'Hey, baby, you take care of it from here on in,'" Sundquist said.

A drinking fountain that will be replaced next spring was named "Wendy's Fountain" after Strip Sittsamer, who pushed for a fountain along with the gazebo-pergola. She is the Farmington Downtown Development Authority executive director.

"Wendy kept coming to us and saying, 'We should have a fountain,'" Sundquist said. "God was looking over us when he sent her to Farmington. She has done such a beautiful job. I hope some day that I can hear a young couple in love say they will meet down by Wendy's Fountain."

Strip Sittsamer was touched with emotion. "I'm glad it's not a memorial fountain," she said.

Besides Sundquist and Strip Sittsamer other committee members include: Mayor Shirley Richardson; Paul Barber, Farmington Public Schools; and Carol Kurth, Farmington Beautification Committee.

"It almost seems like a dream come true," Richardson said. "Little did I dream a year and a half ago when this project began that I would be standing here as mayor accepting this structure."

RICHARD TUPPER, former mayor and present city councilman, who also serves as the Farmington Area Goodfellows general chairman, dedicated a memorial crab apple tree in honor of the late Charles Schulkins, a longtime Goodfellow.

"Chuck was probably the greatest humanitarian that this city has ever known," Tupper said. "Chuck had a philosophy that there were three ways of doing things: the right way, the wrong way and Charlie's way. And Charlie's way was always through persistence. He stuck it through till it got done."

"This coming Saturday (Nov. 25), about 12 of us fellows and seven vehicles are going to go out and pick up about 200 bushels of apples. In year's past, Charlie did that alone."

Tupper presented a proclamation to Schulkins' widow, Goldie, declaring that the Goodfellows newspaper sale the day after Thanksgiving be forever dedicated in Charles Schulkins' memory.

Mayor Richardson and her husband, John, a Farmington veterinarian, also made contributions in memory of Schulkins. John Allen, a former Farmington mayor pro-tem, and Omar Sanderson, a former real estate man and community booster. All three died this year.



Richard Tupper (right), Farmington Area Goodfellows general chair, presents a plaque to Goldie Schulkins at the gazebo-pergola dedication. He dedicated a tree at the structure in memory of her late husband, Charles, a long-time Goodfellow.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Firefighters attack a garage fire that started in an attached shed used to cure meat.

Smokehouse fire spreads to garage

Embers ignited the wood floor of a smokehouse and spread up a common wall to a two-car garage on the 23100 block of Tulane in Farmington Hills Tuesday afternoon.

No one was hurt. Total damage was estimated at \$8,000.

When Farmington Hills firefighters arrived at 5:30 p.m., the detached garage was in flames.

Homeowner Skender Bajrim, his wife and their four children evacuated their house when a neighbor alerted them of the fire, said deputy fire chief Peter Baldwin.

At noon, Bajrim had poured water on burning logs in the pit on the wood floor of an aluminum shed used for smoking meat.

But embers ignited the floor and the fire spread to the common wall between the smokehouse and the garage, investigators said.

An estimated \$200 damage was caused to a 1975 Volkswagen Rabbit parked in the driveway when heat radiated from the fire.

An estimated \$50 damage was caused to a window, which cracked when the west outside wall of the house suffered heat damage, Baldwin said.



The smokehouse is directly behind the garage that caught fire on Tulane.



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