

Warner

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Farmington Hills and surrounding communities.

"We'd like to reach out to more than just Farmington," said James Mitchell, a committee member and councilman. "But also Farmington Hills. I think Farmington Hills people also feel a kinship to the mansion and the history it represents."

Besides unveiling the new sign, the reception was a kickoff for a Friends of the Mansion fundraising effort. Carvell estimated that it costs \$15,000-\$20,000 annually just to keep the facility going. "Just like any old place, it needs help."

"This (event) ... is something I've wanted to see happen to sustain the museum," said committee member and city councilwoman JoAnne McShane. "And to just create the grandness that it deserves."

But the types of fundraisers being organized by nonprofit Friends of the Mansion, such as a brick paver program with inscribed names of donors, are expected to increase the use and viability of the grounds to an unprecedented level.

"I hope we make more people aware of what we've got," Carvell said.

According to McShane, new historic exhibits are being eyed for inside the home; outside the home, antique cars will grace the front lawn during the upcoming Founders Festival.

"There's just so much you can do here," McShane continued. "And tonight's event shows the potential."

Museum docent Carol Eve

Hyska suggested that members of the general public come forward with ideas on how to use the mansion.

"We want to do what the community wants," Hyska said. Shortly before the dedication began, one member of that community, Farmington resident Ken Sanke, sampled some of the special desserts offered by the Farmington Bakery and looked around the spacious property.

"This is a good beginning to develop it more," Sanke said. "The history of the area is important and it's good that the community is getting together to support it."

The bakery was one of four businesses providing free refreshments for the event. Others were Panera Bread, Starbucks Coffee and the Eight Mile Farmington Road Big Boy restaurant.

In addition, music was performed by the Harrison High School Jazz Band.

During the dedication, committee co-chair Penny Lehto spoke about how the "hidden local treasure" is finally being brought to the forefront.

Mayor Mary Bush then read a congratulatory letter from Gov. John Engler, noting that "This must truly be an exciting day for the Farmington community."

Engler also lauded Warner for being "a man of tremendous integrity, wisdom and dedication."



Uncovered: Nancy Leonard and Dick Carvell (background at end of sign), two of the original Warner Mansion docents, unveiled the new sign.



Walk through: After the ceremony people were encouraged to tour the mansion.



Musical note: Harrison High School's Jazz Band entertained for those who attended Thursday night's dedication ceremony.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER



A few words: Supporters gathered as Penny Lehto spoke of the future of the mansion.

Magician kicks off series with 'Scheer' summer fun

BY TIM SMITH
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Magician Doug Scheer kept pouring little glasses of water into bigger and bigger glasses.

Right before their eyes, said Scheer after two performances under the big tent at the Downtown Farmington Center, "I had 24 ounces of water that came out of nowhere."

Such visual tricks during Scheer's "The Pollution Solution" fun-and-magic shows Wednesday really helped get his educational message across.

About 350 children and their parents watched the free shows, presented by Clothes Encounters. Scheer's program was the first of Downtown Farmington's Summer Fun Series, which continues until early August.

"I thought he was very funny," said Farmington Hills resident D. J. Holmes, who watched Scheer with her 6-year-old son, Andrew and neighbors. "I was here last year (for Scheer). It certainly looked like magic."

Holmes' neighbor, Sharon Hallochak, brought her daughter Amy, 5. They saw Scheer last year, too. "The children really look forward to it."

Scheer explained his program. "It's about the environment, the causes of air, land and water pollution," he said. "And there usually are simple things kids can do to make a difference."

That's where the bit about the water glasses comes into play.

Scheer used that demonstration to illustrate the need for water conservation, particularly since people waste 10 gallons of the stuff every week just when they brush their teeth.

He urged the audience to shut off the faucet the next time they perform that particular dental hygiene task.

The Summer Fun Series



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Trick to treat: Magician Doug Scheer performs a magic "Pollution Solution" trick with the assistance of Rachel Hay.

events, all on Wednesdays except for Thursday, July 8, at the Farmington Civic Theatre, Orchard Street Park; or "Under the Tent" at the Downtown Farmington Center.

While kids enjoy the activities, parents can browse at sidewalk

sales.

For more information about the series, sponsored by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, call (248) 473-7283.

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