

Seniors learn what's in a name

■ Woodward, Joy, Canfield, Cass ... a historical society speaker introduces the men behind the street names of Detroit to a Farmington Hills senior center crowd.

BY MARY RODRIQUE
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Wealth and political connections were key to getting a street named after your family in the early days of Detroit.

"Politics gets you everywhere if you want your name on a street sign," Mary Ellen Busch, education chair for the Detroit Historical Society Guild, told an audience at the Farmington Hills Senior Center last week.

The retired school teacher and historical society volunteer gave a presentation and slide show documenting many of the early founding fathers of the Motor City.

About 25 people, evenly split between the sexes, listened to Busch's narration, rich in intricate detail of the lives of early settlers. Occasionally someone would add their own nugget of trivia, such as the man who told Busch that James Verner of the famed Verner's Ginger Ale was the first licensed pharmacist in the state.

Woodward's sarcastic humor

"In 1805 Justice Augustus Woodward was named with sarcastic humor that Woodward was not named after him—rather it went out toward the woods. Detroit was heavily forested then. He said Atwater was not named for his friend, Ruben Atwater, but because it was 'at water's edge.'"

In addition to street signs and portraits, Busch's slide show contained many shots of memorials and grandiose grave sites in the city's earliest cemeteries, such as Elmwood, Woodlawn and Mount Elliot.

"Cadillac arrived from France in 1701 with soldiers and families. It was a heavily wooded area and the only means of transportation was the river," she said.

The French farmed in long, narrow

strips—500 yards to 1/2 mile in width and three to seven miles in depth.

"Hamtramck was once part of a strip farm; later it was subdivided into a city," Busch said.

Bagley was named for tobacco manufacturer John Bagley.

"Detroit was the center of cigar making and the buildings along Fort Street were busy, major factories," she noted. "It was thanks to him that a free public drinking fountain was installed at Cadillac Square. For that he left \$5,000 in his will."

Trumbull was a poet

John Trumbull was a judge in Connecticut and also a "freemason poet," Busch said. "In 1858, Trumbull Avenue opened. He retired to Detroit. His son-in-law was William Woodbridge. Trumbull is buried in Elmwood Cemetery."

Joy Road was named for James Frederick Joy, a lawyer who financed the Soo Locks.

"Mr. Joy was paid in 750,000 acres of land covered in white pines in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas for the Soo Locks. He was very generous to Detroit. The Joy Foundation still gives out a lot of money. They've been very loyal to this area."

Moross was named for a brickmaker, Christopher Moross. His house was the first brick house in the city and was located on the present day East Jefferson east of I-375.

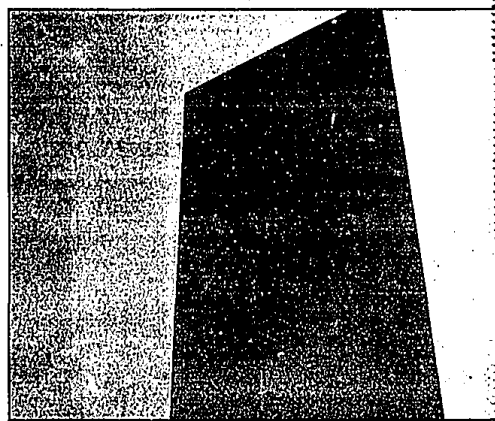
Lewis Cass, born in 1872, was an influential citizen: minister to France, U.S. Secretary of State, Secretary of War, governor of Michigan.

"He was responsible for the Michigan state seal," Busch said.

Col. Augustus Canfield was a graduate of West Point and boasted "the first street in Michigan to get a historic designation." Canfield married Mary Cass.

Dominick Biopelle was a silversmith whose street name first appeared on city maps in 1850. John C. Lodge was mayor of Detroit and his grand-nephew was Col. Charles Lindbergh.

Zacharias Chandler was a wealthy dry goods merchant. In 1851, Lt. Ulysses S. Grant fell on ice on Chandler's property and hurt his ankle. He sued Chandler in court and "the jury



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DARRLES

Signage: Edward Jeffries was Detroit's mayor in 1900 and is considered the father of the city's freeway system.

awarded Grant the sum of five cents. The two must've eventually patched up their differences because Chandler served as Secretary of the Interior under President Grant."

Busch offered other interesting tidbits: In 1849, the taxes on Gabriel Chene's 114-acre farm were \$19.93 a year. That includes all state, township, county and school taxes.

Conant a fur trader

Shubael Conant "was a judge, a fur trader and a Detroit fire inspector. In 1837, he lost his fur business to a big fire but saved the city."

Walter Harper "came to Detroit from Philadelphia after accumulating a fortune. He lived with his children's nanny. In 1859, they gave all their money to Detroit to start a hospital—

the first one in the city."

Edward Jeffries "was Detroit's mayor in 1900 and the father of the freeway system."

Thomas Palmer "prospered in the lumber business and was a member of the state and U.S. senate. He donated the land for Palmer Park."

Joseph Campeau was a property owner who together with his nephew John R. Williams began a newspaper that would become the Detroit Free Press. Campeau had a falling out with Father Gabriel Richard and was eventually excommunicated from the Catholic Church.

"As you travel the streets of Detroit, remember the interesting people behind the names," said Busch.

The Detroit Historical Society Guild, Please see SIGNS, B2

Garden Party is a fun way to aid center's children

Where else can you go and sample incredible food from 50 top restaurants across Michigan, taste wines from around the world, enjoy the music of Alexander Zonjic, bid on rare and collectible wines in an exciting live auction, have a chance to win trips and unique items in a silent auction, help a great cause and only park once? The Garden Party at 1 p.m. Sunday, June 4, presented by Ford Motor Co.

Tantalizing food

Some of the restaurants participating this year include Andiamo Italia, whose chef, Larry Sanale, will prepare Gnocchi Palmina as a pasta entree. The Capital Grille's chef Michael Hanna will prepare Maine lobster and crab cakes. Tom's Oyster Bar's chef Michael Houlihan will offer patrons oysters on the half shell. While guests are eating, they'll also enjoy tasting wines from around the world. When their appetite has been satisfied in the appetizer and entree tents, guests can move down to the dessert tent to enjoy delicacies such as a variety of chocolates offered by Gayle's Chocolates and sip specialty coffees.

Live jazz on tap

While great food and wine are being served, jazz flutist Alexander Zonjic and Friends perform live on stage throughout the afternoon.

One of the most unusual traditions of the Garden Party is the live auction on the main stage at about 3:30 p.m. Rare bottles of fine wine that cannot be found in any store will be auctioned by celebrity auctioneers Dick Purtan of 104.3 WJBC and Huel Perkins of WJBK FOX-2. This year's cachet of auction wines include an NV Moet et Chandon Brut champagne, 9-liter bottle, a 1991 Cayuga special selection Cabernet Sauvignon one magnum; and a 1978 Chateau Lafite Rothschild, Pauillac, one magnum.

For the second time, the party will feature a silent auction of great gifts, collectible items, trips and more. Of special interest are a one-week condo rental in Vail, Colo., and a Detroit Red Wings jersey autographed by Darren McCarty.

I'm excited and honored to serve as this year's co-chairwomen with Tom Grobbel. I joined the Garden Party committee 12 years ago. I stayed involved because of my love for the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center and my strong belief in its work in the community. The committee has worked hard to reach its goal of raising \$350,000 for the center's programs for infants, youth and families in crisis in southeastern Michigan.

Mark Sunday, June 4

I hope you will join us on Sunday, June 4, to experience all that the Garden Party has to offer. What could be a more important way to spend your day than to help a child in your own community overcome the trauma of severe abuse and find a safe and loving family?

For tickets and more information, please call the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center at 826-7627, Ext. 3118. Tickets are \$150 per person. Patron and benefactor packages are available. The center is located at Inkster and Twelve Mile roads in Farmington Hills.

Judy Dunn is the 2000 Garden Party co-chairwoman and the owner of Deceatur Imports in New Hudson.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DARRLES

Party time: Above, student Julie Kimmel dances with George Grantham at the Senior Adult Prom held in the Farmington High School cafeteria last Thursday afternoon. More than 70 senior citizens attended. Top right, Tom Eason from the Farmington High Jazz Band plays the saxophone. A disc jockey also played a selection of dance music. At right, Zeldia Rose of Farmington Hills gets a corsage pinned on her dress by student Shkurta Shabaj as her husband, Milton Rose, looks on.



A prom for older residents

High school students mixed with senior adults at the ninth annual Senior Prom held last Thursday afternoon in the Farmington High cafeteria.

"Each year the tone is a bit different. This year there was such enthusiasm on the students' part," said Annette Gasparetto, senior adult coordinator for Farmington Community Education.

The prom is open to all senior adults in the community. More than 70 attended. Some came from local senior residences such as Botsford Commons, American House and the Farmington

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Youth Assistance honors student helpers

BY MARY RODRIQUE
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From first year of middle school to high school senior, 21 students were recognized for outstanding volunteer service by the Farmington Youth Assistance program last Wednesday morning at the Costco Center.

"I'm a member of this community and it's good to be here," said Circuit



Judge John McDonald of the Oakland County family division. "I'm always amazed to hear the accomplishments of the many youths to their community."

"In my typical day, I deal with young men and women in trouble with the law. It's just so wonderful to see youth

being honored for their accomplishments and to congratulate good parents."

The honorees included Joo Adelsborg, a sixth grader at Warner Middle School; Kathryn Baumgartner, an eighth grader at Our Lady of Sorrows; Rajbir Bedi, a Farmington High junior; Rahul Boimpally, a Harrison High senior; Christy Cannon, a Harrison junior; and Andrea Chmielewski, a

Mercy High junior.

Also recognized were John Cooper and Melissa Donovan, both Harrison seniors; Aaron Hellisek, a Power Middle School eighth grader; Kelly Diane Karakashian and Brian Andrew Lafer, both North Farmington High seniors; and Bridie McDonald, an O.E.Dunckel sixth grader.

Other recipients were Katie Lynn

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