

# Residents, volunteers express concerns about Cafe, Mansion

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Some residents of the community and others who serve on the Warner Mansion Committee have publicly expressed both their satisfaction with the Cafe on the Porch Series and their dissatisfaction with its abrupt ending Aug. 30.

They made their comments at Tuesday's Farmington City Council meeting.

For many, Cafe on the Porch was a get-away, a chance to get to know new friends, rekindle old friendships and pass along snippets of Farmington history.

The city-owned, historical mansion is located on Grand River, west of Farmington Road. Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock expressed his apologies for the miscommunication which ended the series about a week earlier than planned. "Because it is closed for the season doesn't mean it is gone," Hartsock said.

Tracy Freeman, a docent at the Warner Mansion read a letter from Brian Golden, who serves on the Warner Mansion Committee. Golden couldn't attend the meeting. (The full text of Golden's letter was sent to the Farmington Observer and is published among today's letters to the editor.)

Cheryl Blau, a Farmington resident, expressed her pleasure

with the Cafe on the Porch summer series. Her entire family — husband and two children — enjoyed the weekly event and what she called its vibrancy. The event drew about 40 people weekly.

"It became the highlight of our summer life as a family," Blau said.

She said she visited the museum at the Warner Mansion about 12 years ago and "that was it. It lacked life, energy and spirit."

The summer event drew out

the community, she said.

Some concern was generated after the Farmington City Council spoke with docent Linda Horvath at a recent study session meeting. The council is considering "hiring" Horvath as a part-time director/curator.

## Preservation

At that meeting, Horvath commented about better preserving the museum contents and preventing wear and tear on the mansion, to which some have endeared themselves and called

their community "home."

The message came across clearly that mansion committee members want a stake in its future and are willing to put in the time and heart.

"Perhaps if we are just on the porch and not in the mansion, a compromise would be made," Blau said.

Striking the delicate balance of preservation versus utilization is the city's goal, Hartsock said.

Ellen Abdou, a mansion volunteer who served on the Warner Mansion Development Commit-

tee, said, "We realize the rooms are small and entertaining can't be done in the mansion. We want to help the mansion sustain itself financially. There's a volunteer core of people who need to feel a closeness. The only way people get to know the mansion and to become volunteers is to be here."

Committee member Valerie Knol urged the city council to consider the expertise which already exists among the volunteers.

"Use this expertise rather

than making the decision on your own," Knol said. "We would like to meet (Horvath)."

Knol, too, mentioned her disappointment at the abrupt ending. "I was saddened by what happened last Tuesday," Knol said. "People drove from Warren and Detroit. People were inconvenienced. Why couldn't it just continue for another month?"

The city will do a total assessment of the mansion, Hartsock said. He added Cafe on the Porch was intended to end by Labor Day.

## Jaycees to host wine tasting Sept. 12

The Farmington Area Jaycees are hosting a Wine Tasting Social 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12, at the Drake'shire Apartments Clubhouse on the south side of Grand River, just east of Drake.

For information, call (248) 477-JCCS or visit [www.fajc.freeservers.com](http://www.fajc.freeservers.com).

## POLICE CALLS

### GIRL IN THE STREET

A 4-year-old girl was discovered walking in the middle of 12 Mile Road at 6:47 p.m. on Aug. 31, according to a Farmington Hills police incident report.

Police were called to the scene by a motorist. Upon returning the girl to her parents' home on Larson, officers said the parents "appeared unconcerned."

According to the incident report, neighbors said the girl and her 9-year-old sister are often seen walking around the neighborhood. Police said that while they discussed the situation with the parents, officers had to ask the 4-year-old to get out of the street and to put shoes on.

"Neither parent appeared too concerned about the children's welfare or whereabouts," the reporting officer wrote.

### BREAK-IN

An iron mallet was used Sept. 1 to smash door glass at Mr. B's Liquor and Deli, 38441 Grand River, where cash and a carton of cigarettes turned up missing.

According to the incident report, police were alerted to the break-in by a store alarm at 2:31 a.m. Besides the smashed door, police found boxes of cigarettes and liquor spilled on the floor and the mallet behind a counter.

Police collected fingerprints at the scene.

### CAR KEYS

A Farmington Hills police officer discovered his car keyed in the lot of 47th District Court about 2 p.m. Aug. 29. He found an area scratch about three inches long, on the driver's side door below the handle.

### INTERNET PHOTOS

A West Bloomfield woman and hairdresser filed a police report stating that a Farmington man she dated taped their sex act in May. Parts of the video recently turned up on the Internet. Also copies of the tape were sent to the woman's clients. She asked police not to contact her boyfriend or his friend.


She will contact her attorney to file a civil suit.

### BLIGHT

Farmington Ordinance Officer John Konecni wrote an ordinance violation last week to a homeowner on Lilac Street for blight.

Police report, he indicated that on May 14, he gave a warning because the homeowner failed to clear or keep inside old.

Also a van parked at the residence isn't considered "roadworthy" because it is unlicensed, needs a brake liner, and transmission work.



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