Series on Edison is 'once-in-a-lifetime'

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

It's a "once-in-a lifetime opportunity," says Brian Golden of the Farmington area's Blue Circle group.

Members are presenting a three-part series at the Longacre House in Farmington Hills beginning Oct. 1 about the life and times of Thomas Edison.

Nationally recognized Edison experts will bring their knowledge and experience from Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum and Rutgers University in New Jersey.

"This is the first time these three speakers will have spoken together," said Golden.

Each week will focus on a different aspect of Edison. The first week will follow the chronological history of Edison's life and experiences. Learn how this prolific inventor developed his lab and how he formed his team of trusted "muckers" that worked side-by-side with him at Menlo Park.

The second week highlights key inventions that still evolve today.

The final evening will focus on the inventor's nonstop drive to create impacted the world. He was awarded more than 1,000 patents. Not surprisingly, Life magazine named him "Man of Millennium," said Golden.

On Oct. 1, William Pretzer will be the guest speaker. He is a curator of Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. He has published numerous articles on museum studies, technology education, design history and the history labor and technology in the printed trade.

On Oct. 8, the speaker is John Bowditch, who is curator at the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum. He is a historian of technology with a special emphasis on the 19th century. He was director of the Lowell Museum in Lowell, Mass., as well as curator of industry at Henry Ford Museum for 21 years.

On Oct. 15, the speaker is Paul Israel, Ph.D., from Rutgers University. He is a historian of technology in the 19th and 20th centuries. He established himself as the preeminent authority on the life and work of Edison with the publication of "Edison: A Life Invention" in 1998, which was the winner of the Dexter Prize of Society for the History of Technology.

Tickets to the events are $59 for all three nights or $30 per individual night. They are available at Longacre and in downtown Farmington at the Farmington Bakery, Books Abound and Big Apple Bagels or call Tracy Freeman at (248) 476-8323 or Golden at (248) 701-8112. Visit the Blue Circle's Web site at www.bluecircle.cc

Blue Circle is a nonprofit group promoting cultural enhancement of the Farmington/ Farmington Hills community by organizing events and educational programs.

The life of Thomas Edison will be the topic of a three-part lecture series hosted by the Blue Circle.

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