

*** * * News Updates * * ***

Friends of the Foster Farmhouse
Lakes Area Community Foundation

**Geothermal Heating & Cooling System
for the Historic Foster Farmhouse**

Wow! The restoration has begun with the installation of the geothermal heating and cooling system which started on November 3. This type of system is environmentally friendly, energy efficient, low yearly maintenance, and low monthly utility bills.

On Monday, October 9, the DDA agreed to match the Friends of the Foster Farmhouse funds up to \$20,000 for the installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system, rough plumbing, rough electrical work, and insulation. The DDA asked the City of Walled Lake to loan the DDA the money until their budget is approved. "THANK YOU" to the DDA Board for approving the matching funds.

This agreement enabled the Friends to get the project started on Saturday, November 3, with the sheet metal men installing the duct work. On Saturday, November 10, the direct boring installation of horizontal loop field system started.

The blueprints have been updated, the General Building Permit has been approved and issued. Now quotes can be requested from plumbers for rough plumbing and electricians for rough wiring and a 200 amp circuit breaker box. Then the next step will be to have the insulation installed.

The Friends extend a big "THANK YOU" to the City of Walled Lake – DPW Dept for moving the pine tree, removing the old sign, and removing the flower box from in front of the farmhouse so they would not interfere with any of the work. Plus, their help in making the historic farmhouse as air tight as possible before the insulation is installed.

Now to move forward in 2008 with the restoration of the 183 year old Foster Farmhouse. There are a lot more items like windows, plaster and wall repair, installing the porch, and the handicap berm to the porch. Our organization depends upon the efforts of volunteers and donors to continue its work. Please contact City Hall at (248) 624-4847 or write:

Friends of the Foster Farmhouse / P. O. Box 450 / Walled Lake, MI 48390
or call (248) 363-4554 or (248) 960-1631, if you are able to help with our future efforts.

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On February 11, the Lakes Area Community Foundation and Friends of the Foster Farmhouse was asked if we knew about the Evans Memorial Award for Historic Preservation. By February 15, Cheryl Flammer had filled out the grant request, compiled pictures, spoke with the Clannad Foundation, and mailed the grant request to Ann Arbor which was due by February 21. The grant request is for \$10,000 to use towards the total project cost of \$18,000 to rehabilitate the eighteen (18) original windows in the farmhouse. A copy plus pictures were mailed to Turner Restoration who has been asked to look at this project. Thanks for all of your hard work in a matter of days, Cheryl.

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A Candidate Nomination form (Part 1, 2, 3 & 4) was completed for Sarah Gertrude Banks, M.D. to nominate her for the Michigan's Women's Hall of Fame in Lansing, Michigan. It was mailed on February 15 which was before the submission due date of March 21.

The Friends of the Foster Farmhouse and the Lakes Area Community Foundation would like to see Sarah Gertrude Banks, M.D. receive the recognition she rightfully deserves for all of the ground breaking work she did in the medical field and for woman's suffrage. Following are some of her accomplishments:

1. In 1870, a law was passed in Michigan allowing women to attend the medical school at U of M. In 1873, she was 1 of 3 women to graduate from the 1st class to attend U of M Medical College.
2. In 1876, established the first "free" dispensary for women and children
3. She established the first "free" playgrounds for children in Detroit

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The Friends would like to inform you about the four Walled Lake elementary schools working with Cheryl Flammer towards the Save Our History Grant (History Channel) for the Banks-Dolbeer-Bradley-Foster Farmhouse which the submission is due June 6. Each school is taking a subject and creating an exhibit which eventually will be displayed in the Foster Farmhouse. The schools and subjects are as follows:

- Commerce..... Architectural History
- Walled Lake Underground Railroad and the Civil War
- Glengary Pioneer Life and Farmers
- Guest Women's History