

***** Foster Farmhouse Restoration News Update *****

Friends of the Foster Farmhouse
Lakes Area Community Foundation

Updated November 2009

Eagle Graphics & Design has offered to create and donate a new sign to be installed in front of the 180 year old historic Banks-Dolbeer-Bradley-Foster Farmhouse. It will be a welcomed addition. Thank you, thank you, **Eagle Graphics & Design**.

Quotes were received from local businesses for rough electrical including the installation of a 200 amp circuit box and rough plumbing. **Mills Electric Co. and Coe Plumbing** were awarded the work. **Mills Electric Co.** is ready for the electrical inspection. The plumbing will be completed and inspected before winter.

A problem was discovered with the hardwood floors of the farmhouse as work progressed on the inside. The floor on the 1st floor of the 2-story section of the house is about 2-inches higher than the outside wall. It was, also, discovered that the floors in most of the house were wavy and not flat. Several companies were asked to submit a quote. The **Family Building Company** has completed the leveling the house, making sure the house is sitting square on the foundation, and securing the joists and beams together.

After much research, a picture of the foundations for the front porches was found which will make it much easier for **Forever Green** who volunteered to dig the 3-1/2 feet down to find the porch foundations. When the foundations were found, it was discovered the cement block had just been stacked, not cemented, and caved in when backfilled. **Forever Green** was able to dig the trenches so the cement block foundation could be built and cemented. Our thanks to **Forever Green** for their help. The job was larger than we expected.

The Friends extend our thanks to **Home Depot in Novi** on Grand River and Beck for their donation of cement blocks towards completing the large front porch foundation. **C. F. Long & Sons Transit Mix Concrete** donated the poured cement for the small front porch foundation.

Mike, who is a brick mason, volunteered and has completed working on building the large front porch foundation. Thanks, Mike, you have been a big help.

A volunteer, **Bill Clancy**, has been removing the wood trim and doors of the Foster Farmhouse to refinish little by little. Thanks, Bill, you are doing a beautiful job that you can be proud of.

A quote from a local company, **Multi-Lake Enterprises**, has been received to insulate the farmhouse. A couple of insulation companies informed us they were not interested because of the age of the home.

More bricks for the brick paver walkway have been purchased. **Suburban Landscape** is our supplier for the bricks and **McIninch Monuments** will be doing the engraving. If all goes well, an addition of bricks will be installed on the brick paver walkway before winter arrives.

Before winter comes and the Friends are working on fundraising and grants, the Friends hope to have the roof area completed (boards, molding, cornice brackets). The platform for the porch is scheduled for completion too.

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