

Historical library to be dedicated

By KEVIN CORVO

Hilliard Northwest News Reporter

The Northwest Franklin County Historical Society will host a dedication ceremony and open house from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the society's new library at 5274 Norwich St.

Ohio Rep. Larry Wolpert (R-Hilliard), Hilliard Mayor Don Schonhardt and David Kandel, director of external affairs for SBC, are among the scheduled guest speakers.

The century-old residence

was first occupied by the Daniels family but has been vacant for years and was in danger of being condemned until it became part of a deal between the city and SBC.

In 2001, SBC advised Hilliard officials it needed to expand its fiber-optical telecommunication hub on Columbia Street or be forced to relocate the entire facility at a cost of more than \$25 million.

Several Old Hilliard residents opposed the SBC expansion because it required the purchase and demolition

of three residences to expand the site, nestled in a residential area.

But an agreement was struck for SBC to provide some neighborhood improvements in exchange for approval of the expansion. The deal included building a gazebo and purchasing a fourth residence to be refurbished and deeded to the historical society.

The gazebo was dedicated during the Old Hilliard Street Fair in 2003.

The renovated residence is now complete and will be dedicated to the historical society on Sunday.

Mike Riderman will provide musical entertainment prior to a 1:30 p.m. presentation of the U.S. flag by the color guard of American Legion Memorial Post 614.

Randy Smith, president of the Northwest Franklin County Historical Society, will host the event.

Following the dedication ceremony, the public is invited to tour the society's new library and archival repository office.

Historical society member Harry Smith said the library will be open to the public, though hours of operation have not been set.

"We would like for it to be open at least two days out of the week and one evening," Smith said.

Materials in the library will include books, programs and newspapers once kept at the museum in the historical village at Weaver Park, adjacent to the Franklin County Fairgrounds.

Some of the material is from the private collection of the late Mary Miller, a lifelong Hilliard resident and local historian who published a book about Hilliard in 1978.

27 Apr 2005

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Northwest News

