Seneca gets sophisticated at the Lunney

Semi-formal event is tonight

BY ANDREW MOORE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Dozens of revelers walking onto the grounds of the Lunney House Museum tonight will feel like they are strolling back into the 1930s for a social event expected to dazzle, said Manager John Martin.

Evening at The Lunney begins at 7 p.m. today at the historic Lunney House Museum, but Martin and crews of florists and other workers were already scrambling Friday to put the finishing touches on the property's back lawn, where the black tie (optional) event is going to be held.

"The proceeds from this evening will go to restoration of the house's interior," Martin said.

The Lunney House, once home to Dr. William John Lunney and Lilian Mason Lunney, was completed in 1909 and run by the county for years before Oconee County cut all funding by 2007. By June 2009, the home had reverted to its only surviving heir, Charles Finley, and the city negotiated its purchase for $45,000. The city of Seneca has now poured $40,000 in Hospitality and Accommodations Tax money into renovating the home.

The museum not only provides visitors with a chance to get a glimpse into Seneca's past, but serves as a sophisticated venue for certain special social events like Friday's occasion.

The event is being catered by All J's, with a buffet dinner that includes beef bourguignon, chicken, bowtie pasta with parmesan and parsley and salad. French wine will also be served at the event, which is expected to carry a decidedly 1930s theme.

A jazz band, Soul Fetch, is expected to send the sounds of swing music echoing throughout the Lunney grounds.

"They'll have sort of a Cotton Club, Harlem in the '30s feel," Martin said. "In fact I'm bringing one of my paintings of the Cotton Club to be in the tent outside."

Ferns and palms are expected to adorn much of the set up, while a dessert tent will be available to patrons of the festivities.

"It's going to be spectacular," Martin said. "Seating is getting very tight. There are limited reservations available. I can go to 114, and I think I'm at 96 right now."

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2010



Workers prepare the back lawn at The Lunney House Museum for tonight's semi-formal event, Evening at The Lunney.

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