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Vermontville Lions give Opera House fund \$1,000 boost

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Staff Writer
Vermontville Lions Club last week gave a hefty boost to restoration of the village's historic Opera House.

At their dinner meeting Tuesday evening in the Wiswold Room of the First Congregational Church, the Lions presented a \$1,000 check to the Friends of the Opera House, the committee overseeing the current restoration project.

A Michigan State Equity Fund of \$25,000 plus a local contribution of cash and labor totaling \$10,000 was needed to initiate the project, but individual and organizational contributions, such as that

presented by the Vermontville Lions Club, help with costs not covered by the grant.

Guests at the Lions meeting were three members of the Friends Committee, Hildred Peabody, representing the Vermontville Historical Society; Village President Sue Villanueva; and Don Mulvany, representing the local Chamber of Commerce. Together they presented a comprehensive program about the restoration project.

Peabody outlined the history of the structure; Villanueva told the Lions about the effort that was involved in obtaining the grant, and Mulvany gave a progress report, outlining work completed and that yet to be done,

as well as future needs. He did this on behalf of Vermontville Township Supervisor Russ Lavery, chairman of the Friends Committee, who could not be present at the meeting.

For his part in the program, Mulvany also told of the future uses planned for the restored building.

Mulvany said that during the recent village-wide yard sale day, he polled 68 members of the community to learn the purposes for which they wish to see the Opera House used. Among the answers he received were: for plays and lectures, as a movie house, for art exhibits, dance

See Opera House, page 2



Vermontville Lions Club, Don Martin presented a \$1,000 check to the Friends of the Opera House to help with restoration of the building. The man handing the check is Hildred Peabody, who represents the Society on the committee.