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Counting down to 150: Lansing outlines plans to mark big birthday

City gets rolling on campaign to celebrate sesquicentennial

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Lansing started the march Tuesday toward its 150th birthday in 2009 with an 1860s gun salute from the front porch of the Turner-Dodge House.

Mayor Virg Bernero and leaders of the Rotary Club of Lansing, which will lead the sesquicentennial effort, outlined the celebration. It likely will cost more than \$1 million, all from donations.

"I hope everybody will get involved," Bernero said. "So far, we've had a great response on the part of businesses, individuals, and civic organizations."

Officials are planning a series of events throughout 2009, including adding 150th anniversary tie-ins to existing city events such as Silver Bells in the City.

The newly formed Lansing Sesquicentennial Foundation will lead fundraising efforts. Sesquicentennial events are likely to cost at least \$500,000, said Irv Nichols, who chairs the efforts fundraising committee. A gift to the city could add another \$500,000.

The 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Company B and Curtenius Guard Lansing/Sunfield and DeWitt camps of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War were on hand Tuesday in order dress for the 150th anniversary kickoff.



Effort Joan Emerick, with the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Co. B, Inc., watches other members of the civil war re-enacting group perform during a press conference announcing the start of Lansing's yearlong celebration for its 150th birthday



Efforts begins: Laverne Aves, 76, of the 17 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War stands by a flag as sesquicentennial plans are announced Tuesday in Lansing. The yearlong bash likely will cost more than \$1 million - all from donations



Fire! Don Everett of the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Company B helps kick off the march toward Lansing's 150th birthday.



Mayor Virg Bernero speaks during the press conference

**City Sesquicentennial Kick Off Event
Dodge-Turner House, Lansing, Michigan
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