

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 86 Number 7 Monday, November 11, 1974 Farmington, Michigan 30 Pages Fifteen Cents

Farmington Arts Council tries to help all arts

It was an interesting match. The best athlete from the Farmington School System was challenged to a physical fitness contest. His opponent? A danseur, a male ballet dancer.

A ridiculous contest, an open and shut case, you say. No way could a dancer beat an athlete in stamina and endurance.

False: the danseur was still going strong when the athlete finally gave up in exhaustion.

That only serves to highlight a common misconception, said Marlowe Belanger, president of the Farmington Community Arts Council.

Football, baseball and hockey stars are often admired by little boys and grown men alike. It's considered normal.

But let one little boy say he wants to be another Rudolph Nureyev, and his father is sure the next step is dolls and dresses.

BUT PREPARATION for a career in dancing is just as strenuous as football practice.

"Dancers dedicate five hours a day to dance to achieve a certain quality," Ms. Belanger said.

"When they become professionals, they practice even more often than that."

Ballet is just one of many forms of art aided and introduced into the community by the Farmington Community Arts Council.

The arts council, founded in 1969, was originally formed as part of the city government of Farmington Hills. Ms. Belanger said.

Its purpose was to help other art-oriented organizations in the community, and also such non-art organizations as the Coin Club.

MEMBERS OF the council are a patchwork of professional artists, patrons, arts fans, teachers and other interested citizenry.

Service to the community has been provided in many ways, one of which is a community calendar which has spotlighted Farmington and Farmington Hills activities for three successive years.

In its concern to establish the validity of art as a societal force, the arts council has two education programs.

Pre-schoolers are given the opportunity to develop artistic perception and ability with the Art Start program.

"It's like a nursery school," Ms. Belanger said. "It's now a self-sustaining program meeting twice weekly with two sessions a year."

It's run on the order of a regular school. For example, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., the kids have music. From 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. they have drama, including puppeteering. From 11 a.m. to noon might be painting.

IT'S ALSO good therapy. One child who had difficulty relating to anyone outside his family began talking to a puppet, and through that learned to communicate to the outside world.

Funds are also provided for disadvantaged youngsters who might benefit from the program.

Farmington secondary schools participated in a series of lectures and

demonstrations by experts in the fields of sculpture, dance, music and pottery.

"We had to watch that the teacher didn't get a put-down feeling. A lot of times, the expert would step right in and demonstrate a technique that the teacher couldn't do himself. It could have been embarrassing for the teacher," Ms. Belanger said.

"We had one expert come in and give a slide presentation on abstract art. Normally, you'd expect to fall asleep after the first few minutes."

"But when it was all over, the kids just sat there, stunned. Then they gave him a resounding ovation and asked for more."

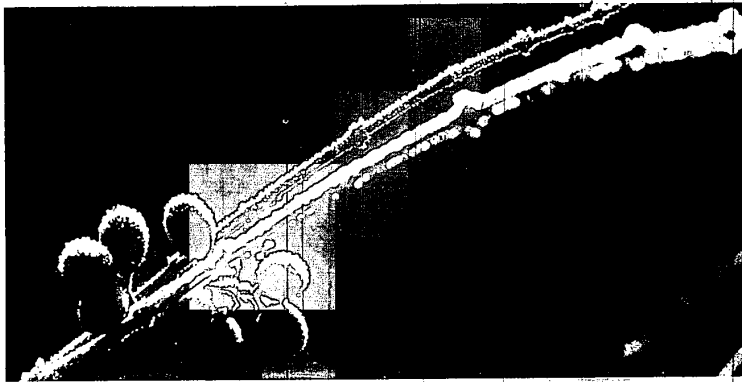
But not every program has spelled success for the organization.

A FORMERLY successful adult art education class was cancelled for lack of interest.

A special series of concerts by the Detroit Little Symphony encountered problems in scheduling, and had to be abandoned.

Even a tentative arrangement to aid financially troubled Farmington Town Hall had to be scrapped when the Michigan Council for the Arts would not approve the proposed funding.

Projects for the 1974-75 year include a list of the month exhibits and at the Farmington libraries, a proposed Farmington Creative Council exhibit, a continuation of the school programs and a survey of the progress of member artists.



Doesn't it frost you?

The sun sets earlier these days, and rises later each morning. The leaves float from the trees and crackle underfoot as you come in from your garage at night. And, not too long ago, the moisture in your breath began condensing in the chill night air. But, the crowning glory

(or inglorious - doesn't it just frost you?) was the first frost. And that, folks, is just what hit town the other day, tinging grass and pussy willow alike with a hoary coat of white.

Leaf pickup plan may flutter to end

FARMINGTON—The City of Farmington's program to pick up leaves with a vacuum machine may be scaled down.

City Manager Robert Deadman told the city council recently that the program will be evaluated after the end of current plans. Councilmen complained that the service had not been able to meet demands of residents.

Councilman Bill Hartsock commented that many residents are under the impression that there is a weekly pickup of leaves along each street.

He added that there are a "lot of leaves out there yet" waiting to be picked up, especially in the west end of the city. Residents should be notified of plans for the service so they can have the option of bagging the leaves for regular garbage service to collect.

the city crews get behind with pickup schedules. Often, it took a city crew one day to collect the leaves from one street, Jones said.

The city is making its second collection pass, he said. Crews have used the equipment 18 days and "even so we have fallen behind."

Jones said the program has cost the city about \$1,200 so far. Leaf pickup will continue until the middle of the month, he added.

"We can pick up even wet leaves if we have a man to stir the leaves up," Jones commented.

Councilman Richard Tupper said the program might be better if it were piloted as a supplement to bagging of leaves. Jones replied that some houses have as many as 80 bags of leaves to be collected at one time.

DEADMAN said the city will continue the program for the rest of the season because its "too late in the

year to back out." He said a study is being prepared on the service, which is why cost figures were available now.

Problems with the pickup, Deadman said, include packed down leaves and parked cars. Residents rake leaves into the gutter, Deadman said, rather than leaving them piled on the tree lawn. In the gutter, the leaves are packed down by cars. Parked cars often interfere with the pickup also.

Recreation commission names chief

Douglas J. Gaynor of Southfield has been named recreation director for the Farmington Area Recreation Commission.

Gaynor will assume his new duties Dec. 16.

He is superintendent of recreation in the City of Southfield. He is a graduate of Detroit Institute of Technology where he earned a BS degree in business administration, and Central Michigan University with a masters in recreation and park administration.

Gaynor 29, has been instrumental in the planning and development of the Southfield's recreation programs and facilities which have won national recognition.

The Farmington Area Recreation Commission was established in 1962 by Farmington, Farmington Township and the Farmington and Clarenceville school districts to administer a recreational program for the residents of the city and township.



DOUGLAS GAYNOR

for a full-time secretary will be hired. Part-time personnel will administer the various community recreation programs.

As in the past, funding will be shared by the two cities in proportion to their populations. The school districts contribute the use of physical facilities.

Gaynor plans to conduct a survey of all community recreation programs conducted by municipal governments, school districts or private organizations and prepare information brochures and mailings to inform area citizens of these programs. He will also assist the communities in the preparation of plans to develop park lands.

It's great

He's OCC's oldest student

By MARY CONNELLY

WEST BLOOMFIELD—The encounter session and the T-group may be almost routine for a psychology student at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

But Abraham Beitner is 78 years old and the oldest student on the Farmington campus of 6,242 students.

A Polish immigrant with little formal education, Beitner, of 6114 Ledgeway Drive, West Bloomfield, is now reading Sigmund Freud, Erik Erickson and Abraham H. Maslow.

HIS DESK IS scattered with titles like "Sensitivity training: processes, problems and applications," "Toward the Psychology of Being," and "The Victims of Grouphink."

"I thought I would get to know myself better and know other people and what's going on in the world," said Beitner, explaining his twice-weekly class attendance.

Some of the class material, such as that on changing sexual mores and drug usage, Beitner says does not apply to the day to day life of the senior citizen.

"These courses aren't for people

my age," he commented.

But Beitner's initial plans to merely audit psychology courses have turned into full class enrollment, necessitating completion of term papers and final exams.

An encounter session at the Jewish Community Center in Oak Park nudged Beitner into the college classroom five decades after being a night school student in New York City.

"The main object of the groups is to bring out what you've got in yourself and to know yourself," said the grandfather of five.

"The group brought out in me that I should open up again."

AFTER A LENGTHY Detroit business career which included launching a grocery business, a laundry and the General Textile Manufacturing company, Beitner began taking course notes and visiting libraries with students over 50 years his junior.

"I asked myself, is it enough that my children are happy I'm going to college, that my grandchildren are happy I'm going to college or that my friends think I must be educated because I'm going to college?"

"I asked, is that what I'm knocking

myself out for? The main reason is that I'm getting something for myself out of it."

Beitner does recall a shaky moment when he joined 1,500 students for mass course registration. OCC Dean Charles Yeramian spotted and aided the older-than-average student amid the lengthy rows of enrollees, written forms and lists of class offerings.

Active in Jewish civic affairs, Beitner's previous education revolves primarily around religious Hebrew schools in Polish villages.

"I didn't go through regular channels," said the man who immigrated to Canada at age 16. "I don't have a formal education."

CURRENTLY ENROLLED in his second psychology course, Beitner said he is looking into course offerings to find a third.

"I was probably holding back for a long time," Beitner said of himself. "I was brought up in an atmosphere where you should be seen and not heard."

"I think I've almost made it so that I can speak out frankly," he said, explaining the results of his exposure to psychology and encounter sessions.



'Good Life' starts today

"The Good Life," a new feature in the Monday edition, begins this week for your enjoyment. Leisure pleasures for suburbanites at home and away are spotlighted.

You'll find stories and photos on gourmet food and drink, travel and entertainment in coming issues. Your lifestyle gets a boost with the Good Life.

The Observer & Eccentric index

News	Section A
Columns	2
Community calendar	8
Good life	9-10
Editorials	16-20
Sports	11-15
Suburban life	Section B
Classifieds	