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Marlowe Belanger spearheads countywide culture council

By CORINNE ABATT
Marlowe Belanger of Farmington Hills is a logical person to
head the two-year old Oakland
County Cultural Council. She's
been a professional volunteer in
the arts for years and knows her
way through the maze of government as well as down the paths of
art.

ment as well as down the paths of art.

She is a great one for taking on jobs that others might view with mixed emotions. The challenging ones seem to bring out the best in the lady who meets problems with a combination of quiet-spoken charm and businesslike approach. She was appointed chairman of the Council last January just about the time she had finally reconciled the differences between the Farmington Area Arts Commission and the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

OAKLAND IS the only county in

Harris sues 2 officers

as an official arm of the Board of Commissioners.

"And now," said Mrs. Belanger, 'for the first time we have a work-ing relationship with those com-missioners."
In total 22 persons were ap-pointed to the Cultural Council.
"All of them are professionals, said Mrs. Belanger, "and all are giving us time that is valuable."
She intends to make good use of these professionals and will assign responsibilities to each in keeping with their particular area of exper-

with their particular area of experwith their particular area of experise.
BUT, MRS, BELANGER, experienced in the ways of developing programs knows that 22 persons don't reflect a county. To meet needs countywide and be certain that there is a broad representation of input and output, she is working with an ad hoc group made

county-owned car with a flashing red light mounted on its roof. He was ar-rested at 1130 p.m. one week after a tornado hit the township and was re-ported to have said he was checking tornado damage. "I did my job." Messina said of the arrest, adding that he could not com-ment on the police record of the arrest, which has been expunged, the police record of the ar-rest, which has been expunged, the police record of the arrested without probably cause arrested without probably cause saying the two officers used undue force.

up of representatives from every city, village and township in the county. These persons are ap-pointed by their local governments.

"They tap the pulse of their communities and we let them vibrate to us," she said. In the ail day March session the ad hoc members, in both small and large groups, were asked to help determine direction for the Council ninonin restiguish explains in continuous and in the contracticular explains in continuous contracticular explains in contract ctil, pinpoint particular problems in their areas, list what talent they had to share, make long range planning suggestions, and focus particular needs.

"By the time it was over," Mrs. Belanger said, "we gleaned from them our charge and our respon-sibilities."

The function of the Cultural Council has from the beginning been deemed to be supportive and adjunctive to what already exists, rather than to replace.

In the rationale, a statement to justify the organization of the Council, it is pointed out that this is a "county of extremes in economic, cultural and educational levels with little physical or social mobility between the groups."

One example given is that in Reverly Hills, only eight percent have less than an eighth grade education while in Royal Oak Township, the figure jumps to 37 percent.

Rapid growth while good in some ways has produced a lack of cohe-siveness.

force.

After his arrest, Harris was taken to Oakland County Jail and was re-leased the following day after posting \$100 bond. "Oakland County is not just a county of affluent people — there's

a great number of peoples who are not touched by the arts," Mrs. Belanger added.

In its 1977 budget, the Board of Commissioners appropriated \$10,000 for staff and program support for the Council. The Council recently submitted for support up to 20 percent of this sum for the budget year from Michigan Council for the Arts which would amount to \$3,000.

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The office of the council with the sum of the council of the Arts which would amount to \$3,000.

The office is a small room in the Council council of the program of the council council of the program of the council of the council of the program of the progr

County complex on North Tele-graph.

When the input from the March meeting of the ad hoc committee is analyzed, there are certain to be more projects underway for the summer months of the complex for the complex of the complex for a complex of the Michigan of the country of the Michigan Council for the Arts advisory panel for arts councils.

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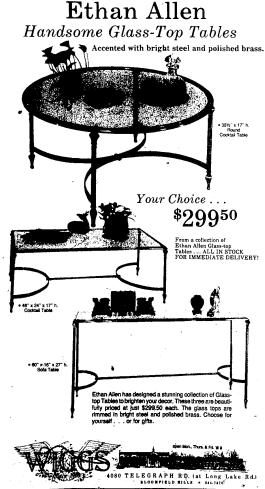
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