

Artist group is seeking colleague to give honor

The search is on for the 1979 Artist in Residence for the Farmington area. This year's winner will follow in the footsteps of such Farmington area artists as photographer Joe Clark, HBSS, potter John Glick and painter Edee Joppich.

In addition to its fourth annual observance of the Artist in Residence program, the Farmington Area Arts Commission is searching for someone to receive its distinguished service award. In recent years artist Alice Nichols and teacher Sr. Mary Ignatius Densay of Mercy High School were honored.

Nominees for the distinguished service award should be persons who have supported the arts in Farmington. They don't need to be artists but can be teachers or persons who are appreciative of painting, drama, literature, music or dance.

Those categories of art, dance, drama, literature and music hold true for nominees for the Artist in Residence program.

Experience and exposure will be part of the criteria used to select the person who will receive the title for 1979, according to Alton Bennett, who is on the reviewing committee for the program.

DEADLINE FOR nominations is April 15. Nomination forms are available at Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls and at both libraries.

In addition, 50 community organizations supportive of the arts have received the forms through the mail. These organizations include artists' clubs, drama clubs and service clubs.

Nominees must either work or live in Farmington or Farmington Hills.

The person named as Artist in Residence will have no obligations to fulfill in return for the honor, according to Bennett.

The selection committee will notify the award winner by early May to facilitate the organization of the awards banquet program which will feature

samples of the selected artist's works or, in the case of a performing artist being chosen, it will include a performance by that person.

The selection committee is comprised of Alton Bennett, East Junior High School principal and Farmington City Council member; Judge Margaret Schaeffer, of 47th district court; James Wibby, manager of Metropolitan National Bank in Farmington; Mike Rasmussen, drama teacher at North Farmington High School; and Joan Mackenzie, music teacher at East Junior High, who has been a judge at state and local music competitions.

PAINTER Edee Joppich, last year's artist in residence, and James Zimmerman, curator of Cranbrook Academy of Arts, also will be on the selection committee.

Winners of both honors will be announced in June during the awards banquet.



Mathew Safranek of Avon Township is the first sight handicapped person to be accepted to Interlochen School of Music. (Staff photo by Mindy Saunders)

Reason is workload

Aging Commission expands

The Farmington Area Commission on Aging plans to expand.

With the agreement of the two cities, the commission will increase its membership from seven to 10, according to chairwoman Nancy Bates.

There are now five commissioners from Farmington Hills and two from Farmington. The Hills slot on the commission has one vacancy created by John Keeler's resignation.

The change in size would give Farmington three representatives and the Hills seven members.

The need for a larger commission grows from the increasing amount of work for the group, Ms. Bates said.

"There's an enormous work load. There's lots of studies on the federal, state and county level that must be read and considered," she said. Adding to the paper work are the senior adult residences being considered for Farmington and Farmington Hills.

The group plans a conference in the spring and a larger session for the public later in the year.

"WE'RE grateful that communities are interested in seniors," said Ms. Bates.

The commission wants to become involved in the screening process for residents of the new senior center scheduled to be constructed in Farmington by Forest City Dillion.

Other members of the commission are Maggie Lorida, Joan Crane, Wesley Walker, Loretta Conway and Aldo Vagnozzi.

Home shortage exists for pets in winter

Many outdoor pets are having a "ruff" time this winter, as evidenced by the hundreds of complaints of lack of shelter for pets being received this year by the Michigan Humane Society Cruelty Investigation Division.

The society says the most important item for an outdoor pet is an adequate shelter—a sturdy, waterproof doghouse, insulated with straw. The straw should be changed frequently, though, since it loses its insulating qualities when it becomes wet.

Abandonment of unwanted pets is especially cruel in the winter, according to the society. An abandoned cat was recently found frozen to the roof of a Detroit hotel. The kitty was rescued and adopted by the hotel residents. Unwanted pets can be taken to any Michigan Humane Society shelter or an animal control center.

Winter is easier for pets when their owners give them adequate care and shelter. The Michigan Humane Society offers a free pamphlet on "The Care of the Outdoor Dog," available by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Michigan Humane Society, 7401 Chrysler Drive, Detroit 48211.

Legal blindness

Pianist conquers handicap

He plays the piano with dexterity and finesse. His fingers glide across the keyboard with the confidence of an accomplished virtuoso.

Yet he's only 12 years old.

He's been a contestant in music competitions, is a composer in his own right and has developed a knack for creating new renditions of existing musical pieces.

Yet he's legally blind.

Mathew Safranek. He's a young, gifted musician who has not let severely impaired vision get in the way of his creativity.

A resident of Avon Township, Mathew was honored on Feb. 21 by the

Avon Hills Lions Club, which presented him with a check for \$1,500 to attend the summer arts program at Interlochen Arts Academy near Traverse City. He is the first sight handicapped person to be accepted at the academy.

Mathew has been taking piano lessons for five years and, according to his mother, tinkered around with the family piano a year before his first lesson. Mrs. Dorothy Styles, a piano teacher from Hazel Park, has been his instructor all these years.

Mathew uses his memory, in lieu of sheet music, to play pieces. His training has been primarily in the classical area, although his own personal preferences lean toward popular tunes.

Neil Diamond is Mathew's current favorite. He has learned to play Diamond's songs by buying the singer's albums and then committing them to memory.

While Mathew is not totally blind, he must be extremely close to an item to discern its image. His parents have created large flash cards to help him in his musical studies.

Mathew has racked up a number of accomplishments during his few years before the piano keyboard. He has played in the Detroit Musicians League competition, Grinnell's Festival at Meadow Brook and is the accompanist for the Avondale Middle School choir.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

ANGLES IS ALIVE and well and surveying the scene from the Farmington Observer's new office at 23352 Farmington Road near Grand River. IA doesn't want to toot its own horn too much but it must admit it nearly tripped over a strange-looking contraption in the reception area of the new office. IA's editor explained that it was a real honest to gosh crackerbarrel donated to the cause by area resident Walt Konig. IA has to admit it looks just like the one you know who's column.

SPEAKING OF ITSELF Angles received a rather interesting communication from Farmington City Council Watcher Nancy Leonard. Ms. Leonard spied an IA comment that Farmington might become Dublin West. Ms. Leonard points out that the Farmington Construction Board of Appeals membership rolls sound a wee bit like the Old Sod with Stewart L. McCallum, Edward V. McBride and William McShane. IA notes that two other board members, Frank Papke and Robert Leidlein must feel a bit out of place on March 17.

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS played host to 60 seniors from area nursing homes for the Farmington Community Band Concert at Harrison High School on Feb. 22. Don Howell, head of the district's Community Education Department arranged the excursion for the seniors from Beverly Manor, Oak Hills Annex, Whitehall Nursing Home and Farmington Nursing Home. Angles gives the program a tip of the old IA beret. (We're feeling ever so ardy, today.)

ANGLES ALSO WANTS TO SEND GET WELL WISHES to Gordon Lewis of the Farmington Community Library System. Lewis suffered burns when he attempted to take a burning vaporizer out of his child's bedroom, recently. He's recuperating at home now. Angles hopes he's back at his office in the Twelve Mile library faster than a hungry book worm in a room full of Barbara Cartland novels.

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL Symphony Band, Orchestra and Choir under the direction of Paul Barber will perform their annual Festival Concert at 8 p.m., March 1 in the school auditorium at 28995 West Twelve Mile near Orchard Lake Road.

The symphony band will perform Haydn Wood's "Man in Veen," Claude Smith's "Incidental Suite" and George Kenny's "Coats of Arms." These three works will be played by the band during the Band Festival competition on March 10. Tickets for the Festival are \$1.25 for adults and 75 cents for students. Family tickets are \$3. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

WHAT'S ALL THAT SINCING coming from the direction of the Gathering Place at Mercy Center? Why it's the sound of those talented seniors rehearsing like mad for their first musical scheduled to be seen somewhere around September, 1979. Angles realizes great art needs time to develop.

THE MARDI GRAS struck some had times down in New Orleans but the language students at Harrison High School won't let that stop them from celebrating the pre-Lenten festival on Feb. 27. There will be disco dancing and entertainment in the school cafeteria.

THERE'S A POWERFUL JINGLE in Betty Jefford's pockets. Ms. Jefford, secretary for the Far Eastern Gospel Crusade was sent off to the Philippines last week with a gift of one million pennies. That's \$844 worth of pennies which were calculated out by her co-workers at the Farmington Hills based Christian missionary group. Angles wonders if this was a case of pennies for Heaven.

ANOTHER GROUP BUSY COLLECTION for a cause is the Nardin Park Methodist Junior Youth Fellowship group which conducted a dance on Feb. 10. Proceeds went to UNICEF. Disc Jockey Glenn Milligan and Browns Drug Store, Burger Chef on Farmington Road and Twelve Mile, Little Ocean on Midland Road and Eleven Mile, McDonald's on Orchard Lake Road and Ten Mile and Harmony House in the Downtown Farmington Center constricted to the effort.

SKATE '79, a fund raiser for the American Diabetes Association-Michigan Affiliate collected \$36,835 through the efforts of 1,309 skaters.

Farmington skaters rolled along at Boaventure Skating Rink. The Diabetes Association is planning two more skate-ins for March and April.

THE YOUNG ADULT DEPARTMENT AT THE Farmington Community Library is sponsoring a beer can collecting program from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Feb. 27 at the Farmington Hills branch, 32737 West Twelve Mile. Don Bessler, a collector and dealer, will speak about the hobby of collecting beer cans. There will be a trading session after the program. For further information call Lauren Bowman at 553-0300.

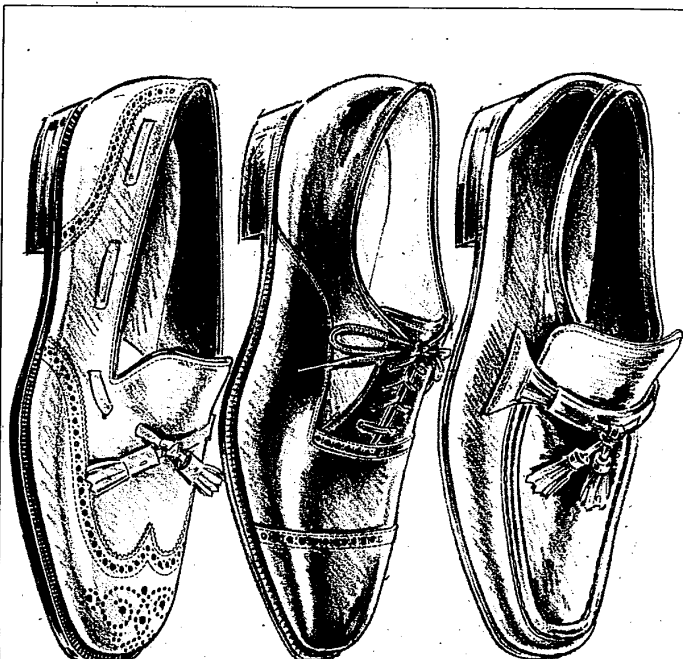
MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS can still register their children for programs at the Farmington Community Libraries this week.

DEADLINE

Material submitted to Inside Angles should be sent to Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington, 48024. Items should be sent a week before publication. Material becomes property of the Observer. No photographs, please.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

Farmington Observer—477-5450
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• To Order Delivery of the Observer, call 591-0500



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