

Davenport, Parks and Rec take Service to the Arts awards

Tom Hale is named Artist-in-Residence for 1983

By Loraine McClellan  
staff writer

Tom Hale, an artist who holds a host of awards topped by the Gold Medal of Honor from the American Watercolor Society, has been named Farmington-area artist-in-residence for 1983.

Dr. John Davenport, professor of commercial art at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, has won the Service to the Arts Award, given each year to an individual.

And Loretta Conway will take the Service to the Arts Award given to an organization for her work as activities director for Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation's Senior Adult Program.

The winners were named this week by Farmington Area Arts Commission, whose members will act as hosts and formally present the awards in an open-to-the-public reception 4-8 p.m. Sunday in Farmington Community Center.

The awards are given each year to publicly recognize the talents of an individual in Farmington or Farmington Hills, and the talents that are given in promotion of the arts.

HALE TURNED his attention to serious fine art in 1972 and within a very short span was recognized with success across the United States and in Europe.

His media is acrylic and watercolor, and he is best known for his creative realistic approach to landscapes, old buildings, classic cars and details of objects.

Local show-goers have many times voted his works as their favorite in the popular balloting that is a tradition in Farmington Artists Club's annual exhibits.

Son of a Michigan automobile company representative, Hale became fascinated with cars began at an early age. That fascination led to professional education in transportation design at Art Center School in Los Angeles; membership into the Classic Car Club of America; and most recently, the formation of his own company, Automotive Fine Art.

His portrayals of classic cars have never failed to get one award or another from shows sponsored by Farmington Artists Club. They have been singled out by jurors throughout the country and accepted in prestigious shows and in many instances awarded top accolades of honor.

Winning national competitions has not set limits on his efforts.

The latest honor added to his resume was acceptance and a receipt of honor, from England's International Artists in Watercolor.

DON NICHOLS, OOC academic dean on campus, said Davenport is known at the school as a top professional in higher education and an exciting classroom teacher who has given academic leadership to the Department of Arts and Humanities.

He is also known for giving freely of his time and talents in promotion of the arts and for the several different capacities he's served in for the College Academic Senate.

It was Davenport's suggestion that led to the formation of Art-on-the-Ridge, a campus club that provides a variety of opportunities for students, as well as local artists, to exercise and develop their skills in all art media.

He has since taken on the responsibility for the club's Saturday afternoon meetings; arrangements for individual or group shows; and activities that will lead to the members' growth through exploration in art.

Davenport came to OOC in 1985 and has since received Orchard Ridge's Outstanding Faculty Award and Outstanding Administrator Award.

In 1980 he was elected to Michigan Community College Arts and Humanity Association Administrative Board.

CONWAY STARTED programming activities for area seniors in 1974 as a part-time employee with the sum of \$50, a few volunteers and a handful of corners.

Today she can expect an average of 180 seniors five days a week coming and going from the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center in the spacious facilities it occupies in the Mercy Center Conference complex.

The coming and going circles around a vast and varied monthly calendar of sometimes-regular and sometimes-special activities and events programmed by yet a small staff, supplemented by a large cadre of volunteers.

Securing the space at Mercy has enabled the staff to add gym and swim



Tom Hale, a Farmington resident whose renown as an artist has spread throughout the U.S. and into Europe in the past 10 years, is Farmington Area's Artist-in-Residence for 1983. The watercolorist will receive guests at an open reception, hosted by Farmington Area Arts Commission, 4-8 p.m. Sunday in Farmington Community Center.

sessions for the seniors as well as a noon hot meal prepared on the site.

From small programs of arts and crafts, movies and bingo, Conway has brought in higher education sessions, speakers of expertise, free legal advice, fitness, health services, outreach programs, a home chore program.

Each year Conway showcases the area seniors' talents in a "Musical Madonnas" review. Very officially the award is given to Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department. But Conway will accept the award because she has been synonymous with the program since its inception.

Gerontology students from various colleges now intern in the senior center and leave with Conway's philosophy, enthusiasm and love for the program she developed.



Dr. John Davenport, who holds both the "Outstanding Faculty Award" and "Outstanding Administrator Award" for his work on Orchard

Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College, is winner of Farmington Area Arts Commission's Service to the Arts Award for 1983.

Staff photos by Randy Borst



Loretta Conway, (at right) takes the Service to the Arts Award for 1983 given each year to an organization, on behalf of Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department for her work as activities director for seniors in the city's Senior

Adult Program. With her are Yvonne Singer (at left) who heads the seniors' crafts activities and Martha Turner, a needlecrafter who attends sessions in Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center.

Teen singers win it all

Members of the Northern Chorale, the Northern Lites, soloists and ensembles from North Farmington High School won the state's highest honors in competition this spring.

"They won everything they could possibly win. They did it all," said Joan MacKenzie, vocal music director for the school.

The Northern Chorale took all "1's," the superior rating given in Michigan School Vocal Association Choir Competition.

The Northern Lites received two first-place trophies in two out of three categories it entered in the Northern Region Jan-Show Choir Competition.

As a result of this win, the Northern Lites will be performing in the State Capitol this month, and again June 30 in Detroit's Hart Plaza as part of the entertainment for the International Freedom Festival.

Further, the group has been selected to perform at the Midwestern Music Educators Conference in January 1984 under the direction of the nationally famous Earl Rivers from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

THREE MEMBERS of the group have received scholarships to further their music studies; Sandy Latham, Derek Hood and Sara Cline.

Three other members of the group have been selected to perform in England, France and Germany this summer with Discovery Youth Choral; Chris Rau, Greg Teller and Kit McRae.

Rau received the highest possible rating in the state's Solo and Ensemble Festival, a feat that was "very unique at the state level for his age," MacKenzie said of the sophomore.

Excellent ratings were given to Hood, Latham and Teller in the same competition.

Cline and Latham, along with Heather MacKenzie, Carrie McCormick and Lori Thornhill, were chosen to perform in the 1983 All State Honors Women's Choir.

Rau, Hood and Teller, along with John Stokes, Brian Roberts and Dave Gunderson were chosen to perform in the All State Men's Choir.

McRae, along with Tom Black, Dan Ryan and David Mark were chosen to perform for the All State's Mixed Choir.

8 youth win music awards

Eight young music students from Farmington and Farmington Hills were among the winners in a scholarship competition sponsored by Metropolitan Youth Symphony.

Mark Schlesky, a student at Warner Middle School, took one of the four \$100 scholarships offered for proficiency in the organization's symphony, concert and string orchestras.

Coming in for honorable mentions were Colleen Schwingsel, Jana Bolla and Kelly Vroman, all of East Middle School; Kristin Walquist and Gary Brode, from Warner Middle School; Dina Zamczyk of Wood Creek Elementary School; and George Feharits of North Farmington High School.