

Suburban Life

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Thursday, May 8, 1986 O&E



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Auction

Farmington Training Center bids welcome to the bidders

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

North Farmington Kiwanis will stick with a winner and repeat its highly successful auction for the benefit of Farmington Training Center with another spring session of bidding for merchandise and services.

The event begins with a silent auction at 7:30 p.m., followed by a live auction at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16, in Farmington Training Center, 33800 Thomas.

"We made about \$4,500 the first time we attempted this method of fund raising, and think we can double that the second time around," said Glen Tinkham, one of the 25 members of the service club.

Kiwanis chapters choose their own methods of fund raising, as well as where the money goes, "but we have always been heavily supportive of the handicapped," Tinkham said.

"We have a longstanding record of supporting Special Olympics, the learning disabled, and a lot of scholarships. We're all very committed to

this auction, which will be our major fund-raiser of the year. We expect to have at the very least about 200 items listed in the auction catalog."

A check list of those items revealed weekend vacations, catered dinners, jewelry, sports mementos and equipment, luggage, tools, pet supplies, event tickets, memberships, and a large and wide variety of gift certificates. One of the most unusual items on the list was a bathtub and sink.

WHILE KIWANIANS are committed to making the auction a success, Ed Wolf said the students in Farmington Training Center are "fired up with enthusiasm and anticipation."

Wolf is a special education teacher in the center, one of the auction coordinators, recipient of large items to be stored until the night of the auction, and the man firing up the enthusiasm among students and staff in the training center.

"We're making it a fun thing for

the students and a competition among the staff to see who can bring in most items for the auction," Wolf said.

His check list numbers about 50 items, topped by hexagon picnic tables and wooden rocking horses made by the students, as well as other items made in the center's woodcraft shop.

Meanwhile, students in the print shop turn out a steady flow of flyers advertising the auction, with each lot giving new and updated information.

"With all the investigations about where the money goes when people give to charities, and how much of it actually reaches the place where it was intended, I want it known that the Kiwanians give 100 percent," said the Rev. T. Richard Marci, vice president of North Farmington Kiwanis Club. "One hundred percent goes to our Kiwanis-supported community projects. We throw in another 10 percent with our time and talents."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Teacher Ed Wolf is flanked by Kirk Russell (in foreground) in Kevin Brown, two of his students who are finishing up a wooden picnic table that will go to the highest bidder Saturday.

Students in Farmington Training Center have sold 20 of the 50-inch hexagon tables this year for \$125 each.

It's been a good year, but . . .

Farmington Artist Club president appeals to the community



Gwen Tomkow, who finds many subjects for watercolors in northern Michigan, asks help from the community in finding a spot to establish an art center for Farmington and Farmington Hills residents.

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

Professionally it's been a very good year for artist Gwen Tomkow. But as president of Farmington Artists Club, she is frustrated by the lack of a permanent home for the club's 150 members.

"We appeal to the community for space. We need a home of our own. Every community needs a center for the arts," Tomkow said.

The artist has just closed down a successful one-woman show in Farmington Branch Library, simultaneously closed up the books on another successful exhibit of the Farmington Artists Club and got the news that her work called "On Gold Pond" was selected for inclusion in Michigan Water Color Society's 40th annual exhibition.

The inclusion is the most prestigious of professional distinctions for a watercolorist.

"But we're still looking for a home," said Tomkow, who for 10 years has been part of the workforce which does the physical labor necessary to give the community two exhibits every year.

A good number of the club's 150 members are called into action over the world often spend half their waking hours walking for food, for water, for survival, we will be walking to raise money to help them," said the Rev. David Strode of Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

The 24-hour stint of hired trucks and members who own a van or a station wagon was taped this spring by MetroVision. The behind-the-scenes action concludes with the finished product, the opening of the

show, with flowers and paintings, award ribbons in place and hostesses greeting the guests.

THE TAPE WILL be used as part of a historical document of the club, one club members hope will circulate a past era after they find a permanent home.

Their hoped-for home would be a gathering center for the development of art talent in the two cities, house a permanent gallery, give them needed space for meetings and storage, and allow them to teach and better promote the arts.

Members propose that the center be administered jointly by the Farmington Artists Club and the Farmington Foundation for the Arts, the service arm of the club.

The foundation currently supplies art lessons free to persons working in oil on a weekly basis in Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center. It also sponsors "The Picture Lady" programs, an enrichment class of art appreciation for elementary-grade students in cooperation with Farmington Public Schools.

"We have so many talented artists here that it is an inspiration to become a member of our club and an honor for me to be president," Tomkow said. "Our waiting list is always full. We attract the very best artists from a wide area. Farmington and Farmington Hills residents support the arts and we have very good cooperation from the (Farmington Area) Arts Commission."

"With all that going for us we are still looking for a place to call our own."

TOMKOW SAYS her art work has been selling so well "that as fast as I finish a landscape, it seems there is someone who needs it. That feels good — to know that it will bring a little happiness to a person, or maybe a group of people."

Many of Tomkow's watercolors have been inspired by trips to Northern Michigan. "On Gold Pond," which will be on view in Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph through June 1, is a landscape taken from a Leelanau panoramic view.

Other Tomkow watercolors are in the corporate collections of Sisters of Mercy Health Corp., Glicker Electric, Kresge Eye Institute, Providence Hospital, Church of Our Saviour and One Out Above.

Recent awards have come from Renault USA, American Motors, Palette & Brush Club, and the Farmington Artists Club.

The artist works in acrylics, collage and monoprints as well as watercolor.

Circus stage show stops here on tour

"Holiday Hippodrome," America's original stage circus with circus and variety acts from around the world, stops here on tour for a performance at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 15, in the gymnasium of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus.

The 90 minute performance will appear under the sponsorship of Kiwanis Club of North Farmington.

Among the highlights of the hippodrome for 1986 is The Agullars, aerial acrobats, and Jungle Wonders, made up of six trained baboons.

The Zacharys are a young man

and woman who give a fast and flashy display of juggling combining a mixture of hoops, balls, clubs and the unusual artistry of the bollos, gaucho style.

Bradbury & Company is billed as the "master of illusion." Noel's Comedy Dogs is billed as 'crazy chaos.' The Rev. T. Richard Marci, speaking for the Kiwanis members, said the show was chosen as a fundraiser because it "provides entertainment for the whole family."

Tickets are \$4.25 a seat, available by calling Jim Wicker, 476-0030.

Baritone wins solo spot

Christopher Schaldenbrand, a Farmington resident and a senior at Interlochen Arts Academy, will be one of the soloists during Michigan Youth Arts Festival. The baritone will solo by winning an audition to perform with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony under the director of conductor Robert Ritsema.

The concert begins at 8:15 p.m. Friday in Miller Auditorium on the campus of Western Michigan University. The concert is open to the public, free of charge.



Chris Schaldenbrand

Walkers called to help hungry

Members of Farmington Area Clergy Association ask for walkers and pledges for Church World Service CROP Walk for the Hungry that will take place here Sunday, June 1. Clergy and representatives from many local churches gathered in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church late last month to get plans under way for the walk that will begin

from First United Methodist Church of Farmington, in downtown Farmington, and cover a 10 kilometer course.

Money raised will be given to Church World Service, a non-denominational agency which meets human need through social and economic development, disaster and emergency response, service to refugees, and

global education.

"RECOGNIZING THAT millions of men, women and children all over the world often spend half their waking hours walking for food, for water, for survival, we will be walking to raise money to help them," said the Rev. David Strode of Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

"One person alone cannot solve the staggering problem of world hunger, but working together with our brothers and sisters around the world, we can do more than we can do alone."

Walkers, pledgers, or cash contributors, are asked to call Sharon Smith, at St. John Lutheran Church, 474-0584 or 471-7408.