

COMMUNITY LIFE

Happy birthday

Artists in residence call Farmington home

Two decades have gone by since a special committee began recognizing

extraordinary artistic talent in the community. A 20th anniversary celebration is planned next spring.

By DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER

Maybe it's the water or the air in the Farmington Area, but there seems to be an awful lot of talent floating around.

Every year for the past 20 years, a volunteer special committee appointed by the Farmington Area Arts Commission has named an artist in residence. These people are extraordinary artisans in various medium like photography, painting, music, pottery, theater, dance, literature and architecture.

"The people who have served on the selection committee have felt it was extremely difficult to make a decision, because of the fine talent represented," according to Nan Reid, Farmington Area Arts Commission chairman.

"If a person has been nominated in the past, but has not been selected, we encourage them to update and submit their nomination," she said.

Next spring will be the 20th celebration of the Artist in Residence tribute. All of the honorees have been invited to attend a celebration party Sunday, April 28, 1996 at the Farmington Hills Activity Center.

"What better way to promote the arts than to keynote people in our community?" according to Bev Ellis, one of the founding members and



SHARON LAMONT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Decorating the city: Kevan Tazian stands near his 125th anniversary sculpture outside the Farmington City Hall. Tazian was the Farmington Area Arts Commission Artist in resident last year.

past president of the Farmington Area Arts Commission.

The 20th anniversary of the artist in residence celebration will be the kick-off of a week-long festival of the arts that will include exhibits, demonstrations and work shops. It is being coordinated by the Farmington Community Arts Council, according to Reid, who is also chairman of the Farmington Community Arts Council.

The public will be entertained at the artist in residence celebration by work from the artists. The public is invited and there is no admission charge.

Also, for the last 11 years the arts

commission has presented awards to students in the Farmington School District. These students are winners of the juried high school art competition.

"The awards are recognition and encouragement of talent in our high school students," Reid said. "It improves their self-confidence and self-worth."

The event also marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Farmington Area Arts Commission that was established in 1976 with six members appointed from Farmington Hills and three members appointed from Farmington. The membership representation is

based on population.

Reid attributes the programs' longevity to the strong support of the city councils in Farmington and Farmington Hills and the consistent quality programs provided by the arts cultural programs in the cities.

"The Farmington area is perceived as a culturally rich community and I think that's because our historical heritage has been preserved and our architecture maintained," Reid added.

Nominations for the 20th Artist in Residence will be accepted by Reid beginning in January. She can be reached at 471-2675.



LORENE NEWSOM

Country dancers high step it through life

The Wild West Dancers are a dance team consisting of six couples. They do a non-stop, 90-minute performance of couples' country western dances and line dances.

The dancers range in ages from their 20s to their 60s, which is the range nationwide in country western dancing. We are a popular dance team and have danced together for more than two years, starting as beginners we are now accomplished dancers.

We met and stayed as regulars at the Texas Star, formerly Domenic's in Waterford. We live in Farmington, West Bloomfield, Waterford, Clarkston and Howell.

Our goal is to promote country western dancing and to show everyone it's fun and easy and they can do it, too. It's good exercise and the people you meet are all so nice and friendly.

You see the dances that they do in country western bars and at country western dances in the area on many nights.

We have performed at at the Palace for the Pistons during half time and at Cobo Hall for the Detroit Rockers Soccer Team; the State Fair for Young Country; Clarkston Fun Run; Paul Bayliss Days; Farmington Festival Chili Cook-off; Now 50s Expo; MultiLakes 4-H Fair in Davidsburg; Milford Memories; Pioneer Days in Oxford; Disha's Cider Mill, St. Pat's Fair, and St.

See NEWSOM, 23A



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