

The tall end:
Leann
Bigos of
Farmington
Hills guides
her 6-year-
old son
Andrew as
he puts the
finishing
touches on
his Mickey
Mouse plas-
ter mold.



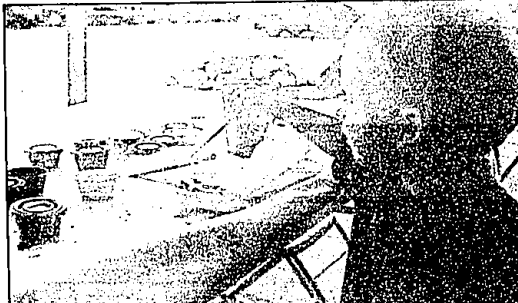
More summer fun is on tap

There is one more installment of Downtown Farmington's Summer Fun Series.

"The Monster that Ate Your Garden," presented by the Mask Puppet Theatre, is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and noon Wednesday.

The free event, sponsored by Three Oaks Furniture, will take place "under the tent," on Grand River east of Farmington Road.

For more information, call the Downtown Farmington Event Hotline at (248) 473-7283.



Disney dabs: Johnny Coffelt, 4, of Farmington Hills paints a plaster of Mickey Mouse at Fun With Plaster in downtown Farmington.

Plaster masters

Kids exhibit a knack for colorful creations

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Paint brush poised and ready, 9-year-old Michelle Candier Wednesday went about her business of transforming a plain, white plaster soccer ball into a multi-colored work of art.

Actually, what she was painting looked more like a turtle shell with each section done in a different color.

"They only give you half a soccer ball to paint," said Michelle, a Farmington Hills resident.

She was among the kids who stopped by the big parking lot tent to participate in "Create Your Own Masterpiece," part of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority's "Summer Fun Series." Sponsoring the activity, as it has since 1991, was downtown merchant Fun With Plaster, located at 33405 Grand River.

Michelle and other youngsters took unpainted pieces of plaster, provided by Fun With Plaster for \$3 each. They then took the molds and did whatever the heck they wanted with them. Some artists were meticulous; others downright experimental.

According to Fued Peysakhov, owner of Fun With Plaster, taking the essence of his store outside to the children not only benefits his business, it stimulates an interest in art among young people.

"It's arts and crafts, it's tangible, something they can do with their hands," he said.

Parents also like the annual summer series activity because it offers them a way to measure just how well their son or daughter is coming along artistically.

"You should have seen what she painted the first year she did this," said Michelle's mom, Nancy Candier, noting that her daughter has taken part in the Fun With Plaster event since she was age 3. "It was a blob, a psychedelic Mickey Mouse. Just paint-splattered."

What she painted Wednesday was so precise a professional would have been proud.

Farmington Hills resident Leann Bigos concurred. She was monitoring three of her children - Andrew, 6; Philip, 4; Kimberly, 2 - and two neighbors, 12-year-old Lindsay Kronzer and her 4-year-old brother, Jay.

"What's interesting is watching every year how they change in their painting,"



STAFF PHOTO BY COLLEEN BOULES

Palette pursuit: Kelsey Burgen, 4, of Farmington Hills puts the paint strokes on a piece of plaster.

Bigos said. "They've gone from splashy to more-detailed."

Andrew and Lindsay painted Mickey Mouse molds while Kimberly's Barney the Dinosaur was painted green, instead of the usual purple.

"We just went to Disney World," Bigos said.

Another mom watching her children enjoy the activity was Maureen Stock of Farmington. Her 5-year-old son C.J. painted an Indian mold in a swirl of different colors.

While he did, Stock sat across the picnic table, with her 2 1/2-year-old daughter Julia in her lap. The little girl was busy pointing to containers of different-colored paints and identifying each as she went along.

"She's trying to learn her colors," Stock said, adding that Julia successfully painted a plaster cat mold that will be hung up on the wall near her bed.

For more information about Fun With Plaster, please call 248-442-2630.

Ongoing murder case hits another roadblock

The case against a man accused of being an accomplice in the 1995 murder of two Farmington Hills women has been delayed again.

George Tyrone Davis, 24, had asked to withdraw his guilty plea to one count of arson and two counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of Melissa Bovair, 21 and her mother Louise, 52, in their Quail Hollow home.

In a hearing July 16, Oakland County Circuit Judge Barry Howard was to decide on the motion. If granted, Davis would have had the right to a new trial.

However, Davis' attorney asked first that Howard remove

himself from the case - which the judge denied.

As a result, the motion to withdraw the second-degree murder plea was not considered at the hearing.

Davis' attorney indicated he'll appeal Howard's ruling not to excuse himself from the case.

A hearing date has not been set, but will likely take place within two weeks in front of Oakland Circuit Judge Edward Sornick, a court clerk said.

According to Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Lisa Madzia, Davis is trying to say that he was pressured into the second-degree plea.

"After he said he did it, now

he's trying to say he was pressured," Madzia said.

Davis entered the plea before he was set to start trial in April. The primary suspect, Arthur Hollingsworth Cayce, was convicted of first-degree murder in December 1996 and sentenced to mandatory life in prison without parole.

Davis worked with Cayce at a Farmington Hills bar and were described as friends. Louise Bovair and daughter Melissa Ann died in a house fire Dec. 19. The murders are believed to have been prompted by Cayce's jealousy of the time his girlfriend was spending with Melissa.

Woman, 64, seriously injured in crash

A Livonia woman, 64, remains in stable but critical condition at University of Michigan Hospital after being involved in a serious traffic accident Wednesday on Haggerty and Hills Tech Drive, south of 12 Mile.

Hills firefighters had to extricate the woman with the jaws of Life after being struck on the driver's side of the 1989 Pontiac Grand Prix she was driving

shortly after 8:30 a.m. A girl, 6, was a passenger but was not believed to be seriously injured.

The woman was pulling out of the parking lot at Farmer Johns onto southbound Haggerty when the vehicle was struck by a van traveling north.

The impact of the collision sent the two vehicles into the path of another oncoming van.

No one was ticketed at the scene.

"It's still under investigation: We have our accident reconstruction team looking at it," said Hills police Lt. Dennis Green. "It appears she was the responsible vehicle."

The woman was taken to Beaumont Hospital and then transported by helicopter to U-M Hospital.

AGENDAS

Farmington Hills City Council
regular meeting
City hall, 474-8115
7:30 p.m. Monday, July 21

Agenda items include:
■ Presentation by Sen. Willis Bullard and Rep. Andrew Raczkowski on the recently approved legislative road package.

■ Presentation by Pauline Manier of SEMCOG follow by presentation by Councilwoman Nancy Bates on SEMCOG.

■ Presentation by Jeff Stewart, Beautification Commission chairperson, on commission issues.

■ Public hearing on considera-

tion to tentatively approve preliminary plat at Pinebrook Estates subdivision.

■ Consider introducing ordinance to amend the section of the city code addressing landscaping requirements for developments as well as an amendment to the section addressing tree protection, removal and replacement.

■ Consider amending city code to provide for the creation of a Commission on Children, Youth and Families in cooperation with the city of Farmington.

■ City manager report that recommends awarding contract for city hall parking to Wayne Asphalt Paving for \$83,742.

Farmington Board of Education
regular meeting
Schulman Center, 489-3300
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 22

Agenda items include:
■ Oath of office for newly-elected board members Bobbie Feldman and Frank Reid.

■ Election of officers
■ Appointment of elementary principal, high school assistant principals and legal representation.

■ 1996/97 PTA council report
■ Approvals: Transfer to capital projects fund, amendment to preliminary application for bond issue, and Detroit Edison easement.

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