Festival from page C1

tions." she said. "I was a 'naive volunteer' unaware of the long hours it takes."

That's more of a common atti-

That's more of a common attitude than it might seem. And
Erngren, like many arts volunteers, docan't shy away from the
challenge.

In Farmington-Farmington
Hills – like many suburban
areas across the country –
there's a grassroots push to provide arts education programs,
camaraderic and venues for local
artists.

vide arts education programs, camaraderic and venues for local artists.

In some ways, suburban areas without traditional cultural institutions like muscums and galleries have found a more populist alternative: art fairs, chaic festivals, and multidisciplinary celebrations, such as the upcoming Farmington Festival of the Arts.

Throughout Oakland County - Waterford, Lake Orion, Oxford and White Lake - we're seeing people from neighborhoods forming arts groups," said Steve Weikal, director Oakland County

Arts & Humanities Council

"(With these art groups) there are no barriers to entry."

The Farmington area has a

long history of grassroots orga-nized art groups including peo-ple throughout the metro area, said Weikal.

In fact, in the mid 1970s, the success of the Farmington Arts Council inspired the state to establish the Michigan Council

establish the Michigan Council for the Arts.
Making the arts "accessible" through membership in an arts group or taking a class certainly broadens awareness of the arts.
But there's a more transformative effect for many individuals who could never quite find the time for their art.
"A lot of us studied in the arts (in school), but because of practical concerns really never pursued our art," said Reid.
"We realize there's a wealth of talent in this area, people creating art as they go about their daily lives.
"Look at all the dancers,

singers and fine artists in our community," said Reid. "Partici-pating (in the arts) gives a sense of ownership and pride in our

ombunity. This year's Festival of the Arts has taken a broader approach in defining the arts community. For the first time, local businesses have been included as sponsors. There's a move to open up the festival so businesses can see

how their interest fits with the arts," said LePla-Perry, who was named the Farmington area's first arts coordinator in Febru-

ary.
According to LePla-Perry,
more than \$10,000, including
in-kind services has been raised.

A way to survive

A way to survive
Teday, there are 23 arts
groups in the Farmington area
with more than 1,500 members.
The myrind groups are represented under the organizational
umbrella of the Farmington Arts
Council, a nonprofit advisory
committee that reports to the

Farmington and Farmington

"Unless you find your own ways to continue your art, you're not going to survive," said Danguele Jurgutis of Farmington Hills, recently named ortist-in-residence for the Farmington-

residence for the Farmington rearea.

Although Farmington is one of the oldest cities in Michigan, Farmington Hills was established only 25 years ago.

"Wo've gone from a sleepy community to one that's active arts," said Marvel Steiger, a 40-year resident of the Farmington area, who noted that the population and subdivisions are increasing rapidly. increasing rapidly.
"There are so many niches,

from fine artists to garden

Indeed, the proliferation of arts groups and the emergence of arts festivals in the Farmington area has grown into a "move-ment," said Randy Patterson, who serves on the festival's fund-

BUILDING THE ARTS

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers, in conjunction with
the Farmington Festival of the
Arts, will aponsor Building Art
From the Grassroots," a

From the Grassroots," a roundtable discussion with representatives from local art asso-

ciations.
"Building Art From the Grass

ing the work of local artists and fostering partnerships among arts organizations.

The public will be given an opportunity to ask questions at the conclusion of the 90-minute

For information, call Sally LePla-Perry, Farmington Arts Coordinator, (248) 473-9583; or

Dave Varga, editor, Farmington Observer, (248) 477-5450.

discussion. Admission is free

BASKETRY INVITATIONAL For the last nine years, the Sybaris Gallery has built an international reputation for showcasing the finest and most innovative basket artist in the

ART BEAT

"This reminds me of the revival in the arts when I lived in southern California," said Patterson, who moved to the area nine years ago. He is a member of a community theater and

of a community theater and chorale group.

More people are seeing themselves as artists, he said. A teatment, said Patterson, of the "lasting power" of art.

Participating in the Farmington Community Chorus for Dixio Doorr has literally changed her life.

"I joined 11 years ago, when I was going through a rough time," she said. "Singing in the chorus has given me a lot of self confidence."

Catalyst for culture

"Maybe we haven't focused on the arts like we should have," said Mary Bush, mayor of Farm-ington

ington.
"The arts are one of the important slices that foster our quality of life," said Bush, who places the arts alongside traditional municipal priorities of maintain-

ing the infrastructure, providing nafety, and developing parks and recreation alternatives. With efforts to redraft a master plan for the Farmington area, there's growing talk about a community cultural center. "There probably isn't enough money in the budget for that," said Aldo Vagnozzi, mayor Farmington Hills. "I'll probably take some private funds." And, some contend, a millage

And, some contend, a millage could be required to raise taxayer support.

payer support.

In many ways, the upcoming Festival of the Arts offers ideal timing. If successful, it could be the catalyst in demonstrating that public interest in the arts. a grown interest in the arts grown into a full-scale rival.

revival.

It could be strongest evidence of the will of the people.

"This festival could eventually

"This festival could eventually do for our area what the Ann Arbor art fair does for Ann Arbor," said Vagnozzi. Everyone is starting to sound like an arts advocate.

Delphi from page C1

nightmare. In fact, Deiphi executives did-n't make any alteration to Wes-

ner's design.
"We all sat down together and
worked things out," he said.
In turn, Wesner created a
dynamic, expanding symbol for
Delphi's global business. The former General Motors subsidiary Depins pro-mer General Motors subsidiary designs a range of automotive systems for the automotive industry, including seating, elec-tronic, electric and suspension

"It's ensy to knock corporate America – for all the right reasons," he said. "But Delphi has succeeded

because they have a different mind set. And they're learning to be open-minded about the arts."

Relation to the whole

Named after the repression of sound and the Chinese symbol for heaven, "Eco" is a rigorous demonstration of Wesner's ability to distill ideas, materials and form.

form.

An evecative work of art in what many consider "sterile" corporate setting might raise the ire of skeptics.

But "Eco" is not simply a

derivation of a company logo.

--While Wesner set out to symbolize Delphi's corporate creed, his sculpture cannot be called an

BBAA from page C1

shown that it had already broad-

CLARIFICATION

"I'm really just a regular guy with a wife and kids, I solve issues about space, creating an environment. It's all about making public art.

Joseph Wesner Sculptor

insipid design that can be reproduced on stationary.
Set in the courtyard of architect Bill Kessler's slock, reflective design, "Eco" completes the building style while creating its own environment.
Made of a satin bright brush steel, the outdoor sculpture reflects natural light as an illuminated gem. At night, "Eco" is lit by several spotlights installed at the base of the sculpture.
Prophetically, Wesner's virile, deeply wrought sculpture seems a natural fit with Delphi's corporate philosophy.

an natural fit with Delphi's corporate philosophy.

"They don't make cars, but concentrate on the relationships of the parts to the whole automobile," said Wesner.

For Wesner, engineering and artistry share a common approach.

On the outside of the circular steel form are two large solid sheets of metal.

Those represent the hands of tine engineers and designers who shape the world," said Wesner.

more of a regional resource.

The art center has sponsored poetry readings, public lectures and an art history video series along with ongoing exhibits and

classes.
And the Michigan Fine Arts
Competition held in March,
juried by New York legendary
artist Larry Rivers, was a major
step in building the center's reputation in the art association
community.

community.
As "Born in the BBAA" demon-

That's not too different from how Wesner views himself shap-ing raw materials into abstract

forms.

In essènce, "Eco" is an uncanny example of how a talented
sculptor can "take the steel out
of steel." The effect is a form
with an intense sense of motion,
expansion and a flowing narrative about the ambition of a glob-

expunsion and a flowing narrative about the ambition of a global corporation.

Even the most literal interpretations of Wesner's work reveal that the steel and swirling circularity is strikingly appropriate in capital of the auto industry. An homage to perhaps the greatest invention of all – the wheel.

And while Definite message is global, Wesner's common touch brings the oracle down to earth—and to Troy.

"I'm really just a regular guy with a wife and kids" he said. 'I solve issues about space, creating an environment.

"It's all about making public

strates, students and teachers

who've passed through the art center's doors have found a home outside the traditional domain of

art schools.
For artists of all levels, the opportunities at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center must seem like both a renewal and a

of Carole Ann Berhorst of Bloomfield are featured 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, April 19, at the Novi Expo

"Building Art From the Grass-roots' is part of the Observer & Eccentrie's series of roundtable discussions on the arts, culture and coamunity. The forum will run 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 2, as part of the Third Annual Festival of the Arts at the William Costick Activities Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. The festival runs from Sunday, April 26 to Sunday, May 3. The discussion will cover top-ies including art funding, show-ing the work of local artists and fostering partnerships among among basketry, music and architecture.

A series of lectures further exploring the them will run from Pa.m. to I pun. The lectures featured basket artist Lisas Hunter, S. Gulzar Haider, professor of architecture at Carleton University in Ottawa, and classical planist Marina Korsakova

Kreyn. For information, (248) 544-3388

GRANT APPLICATION WORKSHOP

Artists living and working in Michigan may apply for the 1999 Creative Artist Grant program administered by ArtServe Michi-

gan.
Application materials are now available to artists in all disci-

available to artists in an discip-lines. Grants up to \$7,000 will be awarded to support new works and works-in-progress to be com-pleted by September 1999, and have a community service aspect sponsored by a Michigan-based nonprofit. showcasing the intest and mest innovative basket artist in the U.S. and Japan. The month-long exhibit, which opens this Saturday and runs through May, features baskets ranging in size and styles. Included among the 30 artists are Michigan resident Susan Colquitt, who makes forms resembling sea amemones from recycled zippers and metal parts. Opening weekend festivities for the 9th Basketry Intuitational reaches beyond basketry, according to Sybaris owner Linda Ross. A symposium 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 24, at the gallery will explore the interrelationships

sponsored by a Michigan-based nonprofit.

A workshop offering assistance on the completion of the grant application will be held 7 p.m. Wodnesday, April 22, Creative ARTS Center, 47 Williams Street, Pontine; (248) 333-7849.

Deadline to submit applica-tion: Tuesday, June 9, 1998. For information, (313) 964-2244.

FARMINGTON ARTIST CLUB

FARMINGTON ARRIST CLUB
The following artists received
top honors in the annual Farmington Artist Club exhibit: Sue
Fisher of Canton, first place;
Annetta Linda of Farmington,
second place; Suzanne Bauman

Annetta Linda of Farmington, second place; Suzanne Bauman of Bloomfield Hills, third place; and Mary Jano Popo of Farmington Hills, fourth place. Their work will be exhibited during the Farmington Festival of the Arts, April 26-May 3 at the William Costick Activities Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Raad. Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road, (east of Middlebelt Road).

PENNY CHIEF CURATOR AT DIA

David W. Penny has been named chief curator of the

in the Sugar-loaf Art Fair

Talented pot-

ter: The works

Detroit Institute of Arts.

Penny is an adjunct professor
at Wayne State's Department of
Art and Art History. He has
served as collections consultant
at the Dallas Museum of Art,
the portland Art Museum, and
the Children's Museum of Indi-

anapolis.

In addition to advising the curatorial staff at the DIA, Penny will recommend purchases and loans of art work.

es and toans of art work.

Ponny's most recent book,
"Arts of Native North America."
will be published in this year.

MEADOW BROOK HALL NAMES

Dr. Ann Marti Friedman has been chesen Meadew Brook Hall's first curator. Friedman ill essume her post in June. Meadow Brook Hall is the

Mondow Brook Hall is the fourth largest home in the U.S. The historic hall is the former residence of Oakland University founders, Matilda Dodge Wilson and Alfred G. Wilson. Plans for the hall include addi-

tional events tailored to school children, college students, and tourists. A new lectures series is

also expected.

Friedman was an educational specialist with the J. Paul Getty Museum, where she developed lecture, concerts and theater pro-

grams. The 80-000-square-foot Tudor-style mansion has been pre-served with the original family furnishings and art. It's consid-ered a "time capsule of the lavish lifestyles of wealthy American industrialists of the early 20th grams

century.

Highlights of the collection include Tiffany art glass, Stickley furniture, paintings by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sevres and Meissen percelain and Rookwood nettery.

pottery,
A \$2-million restoration of
Meadow Brook Hall was completed last fall. It included a new
entrance, barrier-free ramps,
outdoor scating and a visitors
orientation center.

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Country ?

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