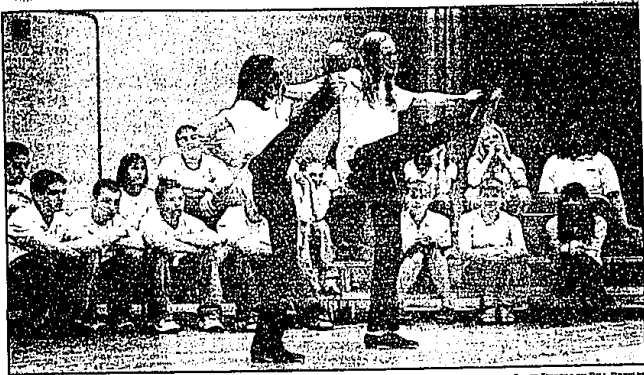


Festival of the Arts

Guests kick off weeklong celebration of community arts



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

High stepping: *Melissa Patterson and Caitlin Sanford perform a dance number during the Power Middle School Choir's performance.*

BY MARY RODRIQUE
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A tuxedoed Paul Barber graciously greeted guests to the second annual Starry Night gala Saturday evening, the kickoff event to the weeklong Farmington Festival of the Arts.

Robert Piepenbrun, ceramics and design professor and art department chair at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus, and May Arvo, a singer and fund-raiser extraordinaire, were honored as Artist in Residence and Service to the Arts winner, respectively.

Piepenburg displayed eight

■ The community can visit the arts festival through Sunday, May 2, in the Costick Center, 11 Mile east of Middlebelt. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Many special activities are planned throughout the week.

pieces of work on pedestals before a wall in the exhibit hall which showcased one work from each of the previous Artist in Residence winners.

About 150 guests sipped spir-its and nibbled hors d'oeuvres while perusing creative displays representing the more than 20

arts groups active in the Farmington community.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi and his wife, Lois, were among guests who checked out the colorful displays which filled every wall with art from framed watercolors to an intricate handstitched quilt.

The event was staged in the William Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. The Matt Michaels Trio played soft jazz in the dimly lit adjoining gym while patrons had a chance to view some 30 items up for bid in an auction, a new twist this year.

Service to the Arts winner May Arvo was responsible for coordinating donations for the auction, which ranged from dinners in local restaurants to a massage, to works of art donated by two former artists in residence.

winners, potter John Glick and painter Howard Weingarden.

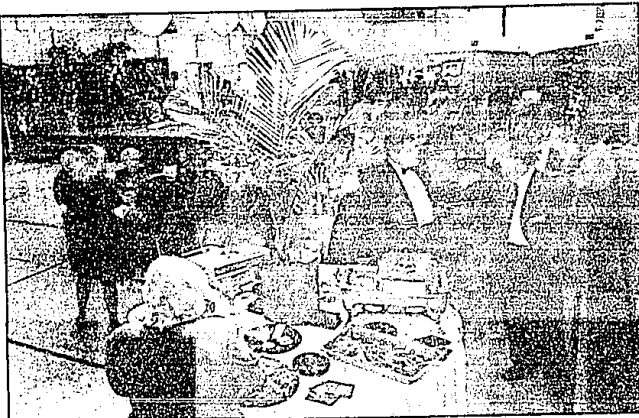
The highest bid of the evening was \$950 for a week's stay at a cottage on Lake Charlevoix, donated by Farmington Community Arts Council President Ellen Kendall and her husband, David. All totaled, \$3,800 was raised in the auction.

Sara Woollard was gala chairwoman. Barber acted as co-facilitator with Pam Schulte.

"This was a cooperative effort of many people," said Barber who is music coordinator for

Farmington Schools and the community band director. "This just proves that democracy can work."

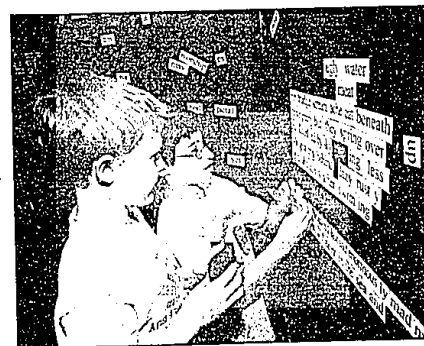
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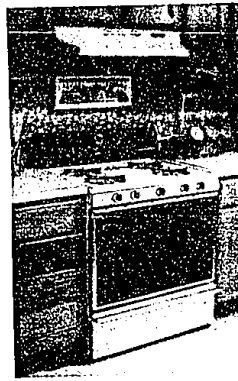
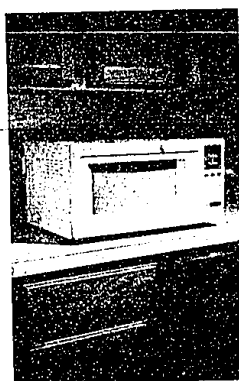
Mingling: Guests mingle and nosh before the auction begins at the kick-off "Starry Night" at the William Costick Activities Center Saturday night.



Entertaining: Susan Fredrick and Bob Clayton dance to the Matt Michaels Trio at "Starry Night."



Verse: Longacre students Randy Tataglia and Alex Dobbs try their hands at verse with the wall-size Poetry Project.



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