

Arts council reports 'banner year'

By MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

"It's been a banner year for the arts because of all of you (volunteers) working so hard," said Nancy Coumoundouros, Farmington Hills cultural arts coordinator, at the annual meeting of the Farmington Community Arts Council last week.

A successful Festival of the Arts, the recent naming of local potter John Glick as winner of the prestigious Governor's Michigan Artist Award, national recognition for an elementary art teacher from the Farmington Public Schools, and the debut of City Gallery in the Costick Activities Center were a few of

the successes cited.

"Our first Art on the Grand, held during the Founders Festival the same week as the Ann Arbor Art Fairs, also had a good turnout," she added.

Next up is finding a park setting for an art studio/classroom in the community, she told the group, which met in the Spicer House in Heritage Park Thursday evening.

Art in Public Places

Coumoundouros invited JoAnne Wilke, executive director of the Art Center in Mt. Clemens, to talk about her city's Art in Public Places program. The Farmington Council represents about 30 local artistic groups, everyone from the Embroiderers' Guild to Farmington Musicals.

Wilke explained how the Mt. Clemens art community wanted to give its downtown a new look with publicly placed sculptures. With a \$100,000 endowment and a budget of \$5,000 a year, the group set the plan in motion.

"Our mission was to enhance downtown with at least one sculpture for each of five years," she said.

The group identified 19 potential locations for sculpture in downtown Mt. Clemens. Artists were invited to submit scale models. A jury comprised of architects, a Detroit Institute of Arts curator and the city's mayor selected 10 finalists.

"Response was great," said Wilke. "We had full cooperation of the city. The city owns the

land and the Art Center assumes project management. We are on our fifth statue now."

Each work is accompanied by a bronze plaque which names the artist and sponsor.

"The Art Center owns the pieces, and is responsible for maintenance," she added.

Sculptures in place include a 24-foot high bright blue chair titled "County Seat," "The Guardian" sponsored by the Community Bank; three bright yellow seats titled "Conceptual Seats" in the middle of the city mall area and sponsored by Mt. Clemens General Hospital, and the people's choice favorite, "Apple of my Eye" by sculptor Janice Trimpe. Situated at Macomb Place at Walnut Street, it shows a little girl playing checkers on a park bench with her grandfather, a scene inspired by the artist's life.

Still to be placed is "Galileo's Vision" an 8-by-12 foot work in steel by Joseph Wezner, director of the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. Wilke sees a late fall or early spring dedication.

"Enthusiasm for the program led to pieces being installed at a quicker pace than we had planned," said Wilke.

Would Farmington art patrons like to see a similar program in place?

"Oh yes," said arts coordinator Coumoundouros. "It's something the arts commission has been very interested in promoting, public sculpture. Also, our City Gallery is a huge step forward in that direction."

FARMINGTON CLUB CIRCUIT

FARMINGTON GARDEN

The Farmington Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5 at the Longacre House in Farmington Hills. Will Pinos will discuss environmental friendliness. Call 615-3616.

HILL & DALE

The Hill & Dale Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Aldo Vagnozzi Visitors Center in Heritage Park. Gail Dudziak, master gardener and instructor at the Michigan School of Gardening, will be the guest speaker.

MOM'S CLUB

The MOMS' Club of Farmington/Farmington Hills holds its informal monthly business meeting at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 12. A speaker from Organized Solutions will share organizational secrets for busy parents. Please call 248-692-0618 for location.

EMBROIDERERS

The Farmington Hills Embroiderers Guild will meet 7-9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7 at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills. Call 926-0899.

MUSICALS

The Farmington Musicals business meeting at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7 at Hammel Music Auditorium in Livonia. At 1 p.m. members will perform in *The Pink - A Tribute to Henry Mancini*. Call 478-8932.

FARMINGTON GENEALOGICAL

The Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 20, at the downtown Farmington Library. The topic will be *Military Records and Documentation for the Genealogical Researcher* presented by Douglas M. Casamer,

Director of the Macomb County Veterans' Services Office. He will provide an in-depth look at U.S. Military records.

EXCHANGE CLUB

The Farmington Exchange Club will meet at noon, Wednesday, Oct. 31, at the Brass Point Restaurant in Farmington Hills.

BNI

The Business Network International, Farmington Hills chapter meets 7-8:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 25 at Kerby's Koney Island, 21200 Haggerty Road.

OPTIMIST CLUB

The Optimist Club meets at 7:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Ginopolis Restaurant at 12 Mile and Middlebelt Roads in Farmington Hills. Call 474-9680 or 442-9796.

KIWANIS CLUB

The Kiwanis Club of Farmington Hills meets at 12:15 p.m. every second and fourth Tuesday at Steak & Ale, 27690 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Call 681-8463.

TOASTMASTERS

The Toastmasters/Toastmasters Club meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. every Thursday, except the first Thursday of the month, at Kerby's Koney Island, 21200 Haggerty, in Farmington Hills.

FINNISH CENTER

Dancing, singing, weaving, cards and more. You don't have to be Finnish to join. Call 478-6898.

Submit items for Club Circuit to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington. 48335 or fax (248) 477-9722 or kmccannus@cc.homecomm.net



Apple of My Eye: This sculpture by artist Janice Trimpe is one of several pieces on display in downtown Mt. Clemens.



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St. Jude's Hospital dinner benefit set Nov. 2

Princess Madiha will host her annual dance workshop and dinner concert to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on Saturday, Nov. 10 at Farmington Hills Manor.

This event begins with a dance workshop from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Those interested may register that morning on location at 8 a.m. - tickets are \$60 each. Princess Madiha and special guest instructor, Aida al-Adawi of San Francisco, Calif. will be the dance instructors.

At 7 p.m. the doors open for the benefit concert and dinner which begins at 8 p.m. Tickets for this evening are \$50. The ladies who participated in the day's dance workshop will perform live ethnic

dancing for the dinner guests.

John Akouri, a state senate candidate from Farmington Hills, will be the master of ceremonies.

The ticket price includes a full-course, family-style Middle Eastern dinner, ethnic entertainment and live music. A cash bar will be available and prizes will be raffled. All proceeds will go directly to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Donations are tax deductible. Tables of 10 may be reserved with donations of \$400 or more before Nov. 2. For workshop/ dinner ticket information call Princess Madiha at 478-3456 or Courtney Beckman of St. Jude's Hospital at (248) 589-3920.

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