

# Innovative arts council opens another year

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Marlowe Belanger gave her "Report from the President" on the same night she was re-elected to another term in the same office on the Farmington Community Arts Council.

In the past 3½ years as president, since founding the council, she has received the "Citizen of the Year," and other awards and recognitions in large part because of her efforts in

bringing both the performing and visual arts to local residents.

Most recently, she was instrumental in gaining a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts for an even wider range of programs within the Farmington area.

The Farmington council has never been one which followed in the steps of other councils, and the programs it initiated are many.

IT WAS THE FIRST to publish a

community calendar of events, created a community involvement conference, and the senior citizen arts and crafts program. It formed the first "Operation Insight" for foreign exchange students, and exposure to the arts for both students and adults.

The Artist in Resident Tribute, a literary contest in cooperation with community schools, and a choral workshop held in September, are all among the firsts.

It has based handicapped and seniors to a concert, sponsored dramatic workshops, and supported the Girl Scout play "Daisy."

It has financially supported the Farmington Community Center, the Oakway Symphony, the Madrigal Club of Detroit and the Farmington Community Band.

This summer an eight week, 18 performance "Summer in the Park" series of concerts was initiated by the

council with the cooperation of the city's community band and recreation department.

AS PRESIDENT of the group, Mrs. Belanger has attended a grantmanship conference, an arts management conference, and has held numerous positions on numerous art-related societies and organizations as a representative of the council.

Among these is her appointment to the Bicentennial Commission of Oak

land County, and a member of the ad hoc committee association of the Michigan Council for the Arts.

Ideas she has for the future, which are still in the planning stage, include a directory of artists in Michigan; a quarterly newsletter, a film series for the schools, and a forum on the arts, a state program which has been submitted for grant consideration.

Coming up this spring is an art fair, another first, set for early April.

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He stands eight inches tall



The six-inch high figures wait their turn to be placed into a doll house

## Tiny figures come alive for Farmington sculptress

By LORRAINE McCLISH

When Sue Foucher creates a family of dolls, she describes it as "like seeing little people coming alive."

The Farmington artist has been making her little families for about 18 months now, stemming from the time her sister needed some petite figures to put into a doll house.

Mrs. Foucher's sister is Joanne Hennessy of Livonia who set the style with a multi-roomed colonial doll's house, and the era with a motif of about 150 years ago. Mrs. Foucher followed suit with hand created dolls and fashions.

The dolls are completely original. She hand sculpts the face, hands and feet, makes molds and finishes each one with a painted face to create different expressions and an individual character for every figure.

HER COLLECTION includes dolls of every age, and her characters run the gamut from santa claus to storekeeper, from the debutante of the day to the servants in the kitchen.

The figures in the doll house are scaled one inch to one foot, though orders from collectors have put her to work on eight-inch and twelve-inch high dolls.

"They are not for playing with, they are for looking at, and sold almost exclusively to collectors. I had no idea how many doll collectors there were in the world until I started in this," she said.

Bodies of the dolls are made of cloth, so with the clay hands and feet, they may lie in a bed, or sit on a chair, but require a base to stand up.

And all are dressed in "originals." She has created about a half dozen basic patterns, and with a multitude of fabrics, fashions the clothes to the Civil War period. Though "every once in a while," she says, "a new order will come in that calls for another pattern and I have to start all over again."

MRS. FOUCHER is now involved in a business that she didn't ever expect to get into. "I just wanted to help Joanne," she said, "that's how it all got started."

However, it seems to suit her well. "I'm sticking with this much better than I did with painting and I don't

have time for much of that anymore."

She is a former member of the Farmington Artists Club, the Palette and Brush Club, and a past president of the Palette Guild.

"I had to give up a lot when we got into this, but I love dolls. I always did," she said.

She has several pieces of sculpture she's done in her apartment at 32401 Twelve Mile, and is currently working on a bust of her son, taken from pictures when he was three or four years

old. For that she requires pictures of both the front and profile of the subject, and that, she says, is very hard to come by, so it isn't something she attempts too often.

Even so, she is attempting just that with a head that isn't an inch high "which certainly doesn't have to be too authentic." And she has accepted her first commission for a doll in ethnic clothing she is now shopping for material to dress.

"THIS SATISFIES me, it's a little bit

of everything I can get in my sculpturing, painting and designing and each comes out differently," she said.

Mrs. Foucher's dolls are sold through Muriel's Doll House in Plymouth, Four Seasons in Northville and Country Store in Brighton.

A doll house with furniture, designed and created by Mrs. Hennessy, and dolls by Mrs. Foucher, is on display now in Muriel's Doll House and will remain there for about one month.



A clay bust nears completion.



Sue Foucher at work in her studio.