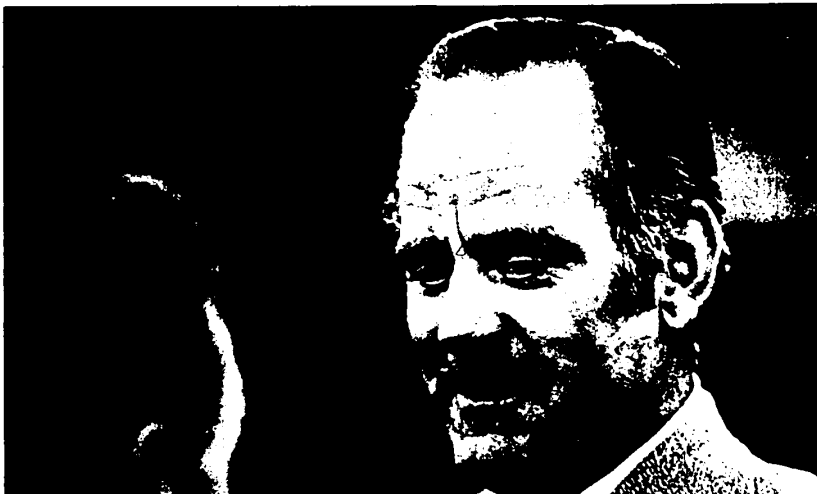


# Election night has variety of faces



Taking a peek at the tote board is Farmington Hills Mayor Earl Oppenheimer, who came in fourth during this week's election. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)



But relief shows on Oppenheimer's face as he tells a friend of his slim victory



It was all smiles for William Hartsock (right) as he learns from Councilman John Allen that he was the leader in the City of Farmington city council election. Allen is stepping down as a city councilman after many years of service.



Aldo Vagnozzi (right) listens to a gleeful Joanne Smith as she tells of her long-awaited victory in the Farmington Hills council race.

## Farmington artists make debut in local co-op

By CORINNE ABATT

Farmington's first co-op art gallery, "The Garret," will officially open sometime in January. But, in the meantime, informally, it is already in

operation on the second floor of the pillared bank building on the north side of Grand River, just east of Farmington Rd.

Nine artists are involved in the venture, six of whom have their studios

in conjunction with the gallery. Visitors to the gallery will have an opportunity to see a selection of finished works plus watch some of the area's best artists in action.

The nine are: Edith "Edee" Jop-

pich, Nancy Reiss, Barbara Turney, Jerrine Habsburg, Dorothy Clark, Wanda Northen, Marjorie Chellistop, gallery manager Alice Nichols, and Herbert Joppich.

It started because several of the local artists were looking for studio space and couldn't find anything suitable that was also feasible financially.

ALMOST BY accident, one of the nine stumbled on the Grand River location, which hadn't been rented for several years.

Together the friends planned and executed extensive renovation over the past six weeks, changing the unsightly second floor to a charming, freshly painted, sunlit gallery. Art is on display in the center room at the top of the long flight of stairs.

Nancy Reiss and Barbara Turney share the small studio room with windows overlooking Grand River. Ms. Reiss does hard-edge geometrics in acrylic. Several of her prize winners are on display. Ms. Turney works in acrylics and oils and is the only artist of the group who does charcoal figures.

Dorothy Clark and Wanda Northen share another studio. Ms. Clark, dedicated Farmington Hills painter, has several paintings in the Detroit Institute of Art rental collection and a prize winner of Mexico is in the co-op collection.

One who is particularly looking forward to having a studio away from her home is portrait artist, Jerrine Habsburg.

Mother of five, she says of the studio she shares with Ms. Joppich, "Here we're going to work like profes-

sionals, away from the daily distractions of our homes."

**SHE SPEAKS ENTHUSIASTICALLY** of the project and the sales it will hopefully generate. "None of us wants to collect our own art."

Herbert Joppich, brother-in-law of Edee Joppich, is a commercial artist and one of the most versatile of the group going easily from watercolors of rural scenes to semi-impressionistic acrylics.

Ms. Joppich, acrylics and collage, is a partner with Ms. Chellistop, acrylics, in the local firm, Wall Art. These two mural painters are presently

doing a wall of the new Farmington library.

Alice Nichols, gallery business manager, is a moving force in local art circles. She teaches and exhibits regularly. A realistic painter, the first of a series on a recent trip to Haiti is on display in the gallery.

All of the artists have exhibited locally and regionally for many years. Most have received recognition in the form of blue ribbons and prize money.

Visitors are welcome to climb the stairs to look around when the artists are working in their studios. Ms. Nichols expects to post gallery hours very soon.

## Shoppers readying for Christmas rush

The small grey-haired woman peered out from behind her large package. "I sure did start my Christmas shopping," said Mrs. Jerry Hahn of Farmington. "I usually start in October."

There are 48 shopping days left before Christmas. Seven weeks and one day left to make that list and check it twice.

Some shoppers purposely wait until the last minute. "I won't start until two weeks before Christmas, when everything's picked over," said Lisa Cavette of Lavonia.

Laurie Taylor and Sue Laver of Detroit shop in Farmington because they like the leather shop. "I started shopping last Saturday," said Mrs. Laver. "I usually don't start this

early. I usually start after Thanksgiving."

Nea Hultik, of Ypsilanti, who stopped in the wine shop on Grand River, admitted to having started her shopping. "This is my first year to start early," she said. Last year, she started her shopping later and was forced to battle the traffic.

Farley Lakari, of Union Lake, won't do any Christmas shopping. "I make things for people," he said.

"I haven't started shopping," said Mrs. Paula Delmar of Detroit. "I don't have much to do. I give money."

Mrs. Bettye Vincent, of Farmington, always starts her shopping early. "I wrapped my last gift in August," she said.



Barbara Turney works at her easel in the new studio-art gallery in downtown Farmington. (Staff photo)