



Touching it up: Farmington Hills sculptor Kevham Tazian works on a model of the artwork that will adorn City Hall.

SHARON LAMMICK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A little green needed to turn sculpture bronze

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The faces are set, the clay is dry and the Styrofoam is in place. Only one thing keeps Kevham Tazian's Farmington sculpture from becoming bronzed reality.

Money. The Farmington 125th Anniversary Sculpture Committee needs to raise \$10,000 to complete the project. Nanette Reid, who is on the committee, said \$10,000 has been raised so far. The 8-foot high sculpture,

which will sit on a granite platform, commemorates the 125th anniversary. It will stand at the east entrance of Farmington City Hall. Dedication will likely take place in the spring, possibly in May.

"At this point, we need to wind things up and see where we're at," Reid said.

Part of the solution comes down to collecting. Some people have pledged money, but have yet to send in their donation.

Several people have been quite generous, though.

The Farmington Artist Foundation contributed \$1,000. Five donations have been \$500 or more.

By contrast, there have only been 15 donations of \$10 or more, Reid said she'd like to see more individuals contribute.

"Not everyone has a great deal of money and (\$10) may be a lot of money for some people," Reid said. "What it says, though, is 'Yes I believe in this sculpture.'"

"I'd rather see 20 \$10 contributions than two \$100 contributions."

Tazian, who is a Farmington Hills resident and a professor at Oakland County Community College, has completed the clay model.

The sculpture blends abstract and realism, reflecting the community's diversity in terms of ethnicity, race and age through the faces depicted. Each one of the five columns represents 25 of Farmington's 125 years of existence.

The 125th Anniversary Committee provided \$4,000 in seed money for the project. The sculpture committee was formed and approached Tazian with some basic guidelines.

He took it from there.

"They pretty much accepted my ideas of what I showed them," said Tazian, who often combines abstract and realism in his art work. "I've had no problems in terms of the creative things."

"It's one of the most exciting things I've done on a scale of this size. Plus, it's the community. I live in."

Tazian has worked on the

model in his Farmington Hills home studio throughout the summer. In present form, the sculpture is constructed of clay with the columns consisting of Styrofoam.

Molds are then made of plaster and wax, which will be used to make the bronze green patina piece.

"It's a very inclusive work of art," Tazian said. "It represents various ages and cultures. It's a piece everyone can find peace with."

Retired priest/author's lecture to benefit refugees

A retired Catholic priest who has written several books on what it would be like if Jesus came to town today will be the guest speaker at Mercy High School next month.

The Rev. Joseph Girzone will speak on "A Portrait of Jesus" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5, at the high school, 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads, Farmington Hills.

Proceeds from the lecture will benefit the Detroit/Windsor Refugee Coalition, whose mission is to resettle indigent refugees in Canada and the United States and provide them with such things as food, clothing, shelter, enculturation classes, legal representation and language classes.

Girzone started his writing career in 1980 after resigning from administrative duties with the Catholic Church on the advice of his doctor. He has written seven books. The first was "Kara, the Lonely Falcon," an allegory on people's search for peace; followed by "Gloria, A Diary of a Teenage Girl" and "Who Will Teach Me?" an approach to religion based on attitudes rather than dogmas.

His next effort was the first of the "Joshua" series. Published in 1983 by Girzone, who used his own money earned from selling computers and giving retreats, "Joshua" went on to sell more than one million copies.

The book is the story of a young, single woodworker who arrives in a small American town and immediately stirs up controversy because of his outspoken opinions about religion. It has been read throughout the world, including the Vatican, the Krem-

■ A selection of the Rev. Joseph Girzone's books will be on sale in the lobby the night of the lecture.

lin, the White House and by Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf during Operation Desert Storm.

The other "Joshua" books include "Joshua and the Children" and "The Shepherd," both of which reached the New York Times best seller list. The most recent is "Joshua in the Holy Land," which became a national best seller.

A native of Albany, N.Y., he entered St. Albert's Junior Seminary at Middletown, N.Y., at age 14 to begin studies for the priesthood in the Carmelite Order. He was ordained a priest in 1955 and was assigned to teach in St. Simon Stock High School in the Bronx, where he did parish work as well. At the time, teenage gangs were rampant, and Girzone worked extensively with many of them.

He also worked in high schools in the coal-mining area of Pennsylvania, in Auburn, N.Y., and taught biology and Latin in the seminary.

In 1964, he left the Carmelite Order and joined the Albanian Roman Catholic Diocese, where he worked in parishes and high schools for the next 16 years.

During that time, he was appointed to a government human

rights commission, and in that capacity, was sent to negotiate an end to a riot in the Schenectady County Jail. The negotiations necessitated writing an extensive report on conditions in the facility with recommendations for radical change, most of which were implemented.

In 1971, he was appointed to head a special committee of the same human rights commission to investigate racial tensions in the Schenectady school system. He was the major author of a report that was used by the New York State Education Department to make significant changes in the discipline system throughout the state.

At times since then, because of his involvement in criminal justice matters, Girzone was requested to mediate in tense prison conditions in New York State.

He also has been doing extensive lecture and retreat work throughout the world, giving talks to such diverse groups as Hindus; Jews; and various Christian groups, notably Baptists, Methodists, Evangelicals and Catholics. His unique understanding of Christ and his message cuts across all barriers and his following embraces large groups from all different religions.

Girzone is working on a book of spirituality, titled "Alone."

A selection of Girzone's books will be on sale in the lobby the night of the lecture and he will be available after the lecture to autograph copies bought that night and those copies brought from home.

Tickets will be sold at the door.

OUR TOWN ART EXHIBITION & SALE

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at the COMMUNITY HOUSE



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Thursday, October 21, 7:30 a.m.
\$5 per person Allen Rubiner, speaker

Private Art Collection Tour
Thursday, October 21, 10:00 a.m.
\$30 per person

Art and Jazz IV
Friday, October 22, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
\$18 per person at the door
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Children's Workshop
Saturday, October 23, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
\$5 per person (with parent) 5-7 years

Artists' Reception & Awards Ceremony
Sunday, October 24, 5:00 p.m.
No charge

Man dies of accident injuries

A Grand Rapids man who was a passenger in a car that crashed into a tree west of Drake Road in Farmington Hills died Oct. 13 at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor.

Timothy Sherwood, 40, was a

passenger in the car driven by his brother Thomas, 37, at about 9 a.m. Oct. 8, when the accident took place.

The driver lost control while traveling west on W-102 past Drake Road, went off the road

and hit a tree. Both men were taken to Botsford General Hospital. Thomas was treated and released. Timothy had been transferred to U.M. No alcohol was involved, said Farmington Hills police. The accident remains under investigation.