

Artistic achievements: Shelby Newhouse, right, speaks after being honored with the club's Distinguished Service to the Arts award. Gerard J. Panyard, far right, received first prize for his work, "Flowers in the Window."

PHOTOS BY BILL HANCOCK



Fest serves as canvas for artistic community

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

Two of the artists honored during the Festival of the Arts opening reception Sunday painted a picture of the Farmington community as a special one.

"I think it's so important at a time when the arts are under attack," said Shelby Newhouse, film producer and videographer, "that we live and work in a community that actually applauds the arts."

Newhouse was among the focal points of the awards ceremony, as he was named winner of the Distinguished Service to the Arts honor for his work on numerous films, especially his production leadership on "Farmington — 1867-1992," which celebrated the town's 125th anniversary. Newhouse shared the credit with others who helped put together the film.

Barbara Selinger, who was honored with the Farmington Area Arts Commission's 21st Artist-in-Residence Award, also spoke up for Farmington's long commitment to the arts during the ceremony at the William Costick Center.

"It's very meaningful to artists around the world that you continue to celebrate the arts," said Selinger, a dance instructor and performer. She is co-founder and co-artistic director of the Detroit Dance Collective.

As artist-in-residence, Selinger plans to perform dance programs and classes in the community throughout the year.

"We hope that we will be able to

bring the arts to people of all ages in the community. We look forward to sharing our work with you," she said.

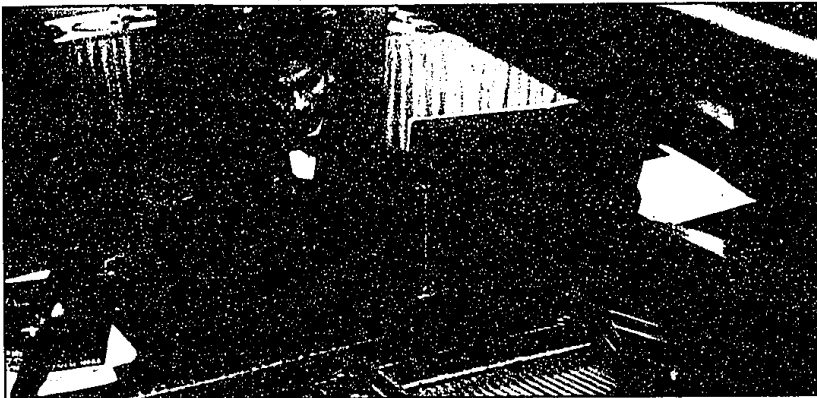
The reception also honored 18 students for their two- and three-dimensional works and another 11 members of the Farmington Artist Club for their creations.

Those award-winning works were among the hundreds of paintings, drawings, sculptures and more displayed all week in the Costick Center. They'll be displayed there from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. today through Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Former state Rep. Jan Dolan, who also served on the Artist-in-Residence Committee, pinch-hit to deliver the student art awards. She noted that members of the crowd might see the students again. "Look for them in the future as your future artists-in-residence," Dolan said.

Closing remarks by Jennifer Davison of Oakland County Schools' fine arts education department also focused on the "breadth and depth of commitment to the arts" in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

However, she issued the 120 or so people in the audience a challenge: Read an article about the newest brain research showing arts experiences provide people with a longer, better quality of life. "Then share it with someone who may not be the arts supporter that you are and bring them with you when you go to see The Farmington Players or to hear The Farmington Community Band."



Key expressions: Pianist Patrick Kongsli serenades the audience at the Festival of the Arts reception Sunday at the William Costick Activities Center.

Winning student, club artists demonstrate flair

Winners of the Farmington Artist Club honors were Gerard Panyard, "Flowers in the Window," first place; Chris Unwin, "S. West Rhythm," second place; Annette Lind, "Book Notes," third place; and Marjorie Chellatorp, "Meadow Sunlight," Grumbacher Award (best use of color).

The club's honorable mention winners were Dorothy Congdon, "Ann's Basket," Audrey Harkins, "Zinnias and

Stripes," Sook-Kyung Hong, "Peppers #2," Jim Patterson, "Bright Bouquet," Gail Thomas, "Lilacs & Gingerbread," Billie Thompson, "Revival," and Gwen Tomkow, "Dune Motion."

High school student art winners in two-dimensional category were: Ray Matsen, first place; David Zorn, second place; and Melanie Lerro & Terrell Hall, third place. In

three-dimensional art, winners were Ken Marshall, first place; Michelle Priebe, second place, and Amanda Baker, third place.

Student honorable mentions went to Enge Baessler, Sarah Black, Karian Rodriguez, Jamie Hope, Julie Boxman, Talitha Daelemans, Jesse Hermann, Gina Edwards, Brian Evangelista, Marissa Phillips and Julie Strachan.



Prep honors: The high school award winners line the stage at the William Costick Center.

Weak reception

FCC official clarifies little during 3-hour Hills meeting

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The reception wasn't too clear Saturday at a special Farmington Hills City Council meeting, featuring representatives of the Federal Communications Commission, cable TV and cellular communication industry and legislators were joined by about 100 residents.

The session that began at 10 a.m. and lasted more than three hours, was scheduled by the city council in order to clarify state and national legislation on cable TV, cellular technology and rights-of-ways issues. But there seemed to be little clarification.

Several residents were concerned about the placement of cellular equipment in residential areas.

Hills resident Frank Flood, for one, worried about commercial use in residential areas.

"It's no more or no less than a gas station being in a residential area," he said.

The Telecommunications Act does not allow considering environmental factors, which has been interpreted as including health concerns, and many residents said they would like that part of the act challenged.

James Bridgewater, the FCC agent in charge at the Farmington Hills office, said the city could not preclude the industry from locating in the city, but more specific needs of the companies would depend on their marketing plans.

Councilman Terry Sever said that the city could fight the companies in court, but that would

be very costly.

Councilwoman Nancy Bates said she appreciated the benefits of the new cellular technology, especially for police and fire service. But local control on zoning those companies is difficult.

"When the remedy is court, we will not be able to afford one \$1 million law suit after another. Is the FCC behind the citizens or the industry?"

Bill Mathewson, a staff attorney with the Michigan Municipal League, said his organization is working to make sure municipalities receive fair compensation for use of their rights of way and a say in cellular equipment location.

"We want to make sure citizens have the opportunity to benefit from the technology by increased competition while allowing local officials to have the authority to manage rights of ways and cellular tower siting," he said.

"The good news is that by and large, it (the act) preserves local zoning authority," Mathewson said. "I don't think it is appropriate for the FCC in Washington to be an arbiter of local zoning."

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, who has been outspoken about the lack of local input in the determination of laws including the FCC Telecommunications Act of 1996, began the meeting by asking about cable TV policies.

James A. Bridgewater, the FCC agent in charge of Detroit area office in Farmington Hills, said although local authorities are responsible for regulating cable TV, operators can justify

rate increases with added options or cost increases.

Vagnozzi asked how cable companies could raise rates while reducing the number of channels offered. Bridgewater said he could not talk specifics.

Councilman Jerry Ellis cited a Kentucky court case that ended in a denial of a cable contract renewal based on the "knowledge of the community" and that city's advantage in "determining the cable needs of the community."

"Do we have FCC backing or are we at the mercy of cable companies?" Ellis said.

Bridgewater said he was not familiar with the case, which is handled by the FCC's cable bureau.

"We are a compliance and information branch," he said, adding that more specific information could be obtained from the FCC's web site at www.fcc.com.

Vagnozzi complained that although FCC representatives said the cable commission, which oversees the local franchiser, is supposed to have a say in rates, the "social contract" provided for in the federal act allows them to raise rates anyway.

"We've been through a brick wall on this," he said.

Sen. Bill Bullard said the federal law preserves zoning authority while allowing residents the advantages of advanced technology.

"Every school in Oakland County is wired for cable (TV)," he said. "The advances are beneficial. But we want to preserve local control."

Students are waiting for results from the national test. Harrison High was the national champion last year.

A team from Harrison finished second in the U.S. Department of Energy's Science Bowl regional tournament in Dayton, Ohio. Centerville High School edged out the Harrison High contingent of Jon Andersen, Sandeep Chivukula, Daniel Rodak and David Weidenford on the last question.

The Robo-Hawks, a team comprised of Harrison High students and TRW engineers, took RoboCup All-Star honors with their entry in a recent national competition at Disney World. Students and TRW engineers worked together on building a robot that placed inner tubes on a rack.

The Robo-Hawks' video was rated in the Top 10 and the animation was in the Top 15.



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