

Arts president says

New art directory will aid Hills, city residents

By CORINNE ABATT

Farmington and Farmington Hills persons involved in various aspects of the arts are urged to register through the Farmington Library, 2727 Twelve Mile, west of Farmington Road.

The registration is part of a state-wide project, the publication of a directory of the arts through the Michigan Council for the Arts.

Deadline for registration by individuals, groups, organizations and agencies is Friday, Aug. 18. Needed now is a card with name, address, phone number and areas of interest. This information should be sent to the library, attention June Christopher. Questionnaires will be mailed out for additional background material.

MARLOWE BELANGER, president of the Farmington Community Arts Council, is very excited about the potential of the directory.

"But," she says, "it will only be as good as the input. There is no cost involved to the artists and it can only do good for them."

Those being urged to register include educators, individuals, and organizations in dance, art, drama and poetry.

Information will be fed into the computer for a local and state file. Mrs. Belanger, also member of an advisory group of the Michigan Council, says the directory is one of several projects at the state level to further cultivate and professionalize art as a business.

Other ideas kicking around at the state level include a forum on the arts at regular intervals and a state-wide arts council newsletter. The first issue of the latter is due in the mail Sept. 18. It will help promote coordination of programming and exchange of ideas among the local councils.

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Another idea is to organize an alliance of the arts, a nucleus of educators and organizations to promote the arts in Michigan.

In addition to supporting and promoting the arts statewide, the Michigan Council gives financial grants for special projects.

Mrs. Belanger said the Farmington Community Arts Council just received a \$600 mini grant to help cover costs of part of the summer in the park programs which the council and the recreation commission sponsored this summer.

Local service clubs and community groups also helped fund the summer programs which often showcased local talent.

The local council, organized six years ago, is affiliated with the Michigan Council.

"It was one of the first arts councils in the state and is recognized as one of the most innovative. We have good talent in our Farmington council."

Since 1966 she was elected president three years ago, Mrs. Belanger has been working for official recognition from both city councils.

A proposal to dissolve the present council and form a Farmington Commission of the Arts with an all volunteer board made up of four Farmington Hills residents, two from Farmington and three at large, has been approved by the Farmington council, but is still under study by the Hills council.

Official sanction by both local governments would make it easier to apply for and receive financial support from the Michigan Council for special projects.

"We certainly propose a volunteer type commission," Mrs. Belanger said, stating her objections to paid persons on the commission, with the possible exception of clerical help whom needed. She said the state gives grants to cover mailing and stationery costs.

The council's limbo state hasn't disposed spirits or activity level. The council is working with the library for a grant to help defray the costs of building a base and moving the seven foot bronze made his already been sent to the Michigan Council.

The council is working on a historic film series in cooperation with the Historical Society to be available through the library.

The immediate project, that of getting information on artists and groups in the community, Mrs. Belanger says, could prove to be one of the community's most valuable resources.

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MARLOWE BELANGER

Skating party will fight MD

Disraeli Chapter of B'nai B'rith Girls will hold its third annual Skating Scramble Wednesday with all proceeds earmarked to aid in the fight against muscular dystrophy.

The event will be held from 7:10 p.m. in Ambassador Roller Rink on Fourteen Mile Road, Clawson. Admission is 99 cents for three hours of roller skating.

The chapter's contribution to Muscular Dystrophy Association of America will be made when Jerry Lewis holds his annual telethon during Labor Day weekend.

Disraeli Chapter is composed of 30 girls in ninth through 12th grades in the Farmington and West Bloomfield area.

Candlemaking is traditional craft

By FELICIA KOBYLANSKI

The art of natural candlemaking comes alive at Greenfield Village through the skill of Farmington resident Martha Purdon. Miss Purdon, who is spending her summer working at the Village museum, began studying the craft last summer.

"I used to make sand candles on my own," she explains, "but everything else I've learned has been from the Village. I wanted to work in the crafts and last summer they had an opening in candlemaking so that's how I got started."

Miss Purdon is learning the colonial candlemaking techniques from the Allen Park women who have been working at the Village for several years. Last summer the three worked outdoors and made dipped candles.

"We use tallow, melted beef and mutton fat bought from a commercial company," Miss Purdon says. The fat comes already rendered down and used for use.

This summer the candlemakers have moved into the museum and are using molds instead of hand dipping candles.

"Four of our molds are roughly 125 to 150 years old," she said. "They are made out of pewter and each one can make about 20 candles at a time. The other molds we use are tin, which doesn't last as long."

"WE ONLY use natural waxes," she explained. "The gold is beeswax, which is honeycomb melted down. It has a natural color and a sweet, honey smell."

"Bayberries give a green color," Miss Purdon continued. "They are dropped in boiling water and the wax which rises to the top is scraped off."

"It takes 13 pounds of berries to produce one pound of wax, enough to make five or six tapered candles, according to Miss Purdon. Bayberry candles are green and the wax used to produce them at the museum is from Colombia, South America."

"In colonial times bayberries grew along the East coast," she said. "Now, few grow wild and they are very expensive to buy in the United States."

The third kind of candle made at the museum is produced from spermaceti, a waxy substance from the head of the sperm whale. Spermaceti candles are white and are extremely brilliant and long lasting, she said.

"But now it's illegal to use in the United States because it involves killing whales," she said. "However, it was an extremely valuable export for a lot of countries during colonial times."

She said there is little information available on professional candlemaking in colonial times. "A candlemaker would've probably made soap in his shop, too."

"The colonial housewife would've made soap out of the tallow first, and then made candles out of whatever was left," she added. "The only way riches would have bought their candles from a shop."

"Most people then probably used betty or rush lamps instead of candles anyway," Miss Purdon said. "The betty lamp was a stand that you'd put the fat in, and the rush lamp was of wick dipped into grease."

Miss Purdon explains that the art of candlemaking dates back to prehistoric times. "Cavemen would put a piece of moss into some fat," she said. Eventually hand dipping evolved.

Today most commercial candles are made of paraffin, a petroleum byproduct. "But with petroleum prices going up that means an end to cheap wax," Miss Purdon explained.

The 18-year-old candlemaker plans to continue working at Greenfield Village during weekends when she begins school at the Dearborn branch of the University of Michigan this fall.

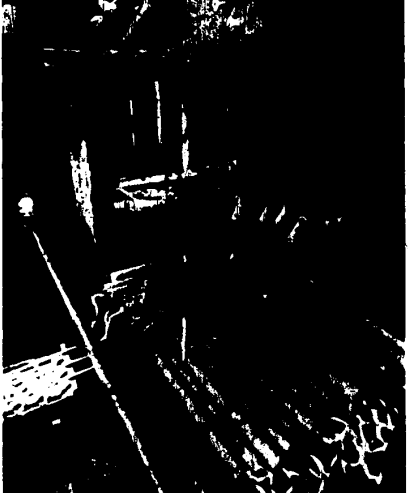
"I'm hoping to get into more artistic candlemaking," she said. "I like making candles but just doing plain ones is boring. I'd like to do something more creative."

Miss Purdon also does repair work and needlepoint and is beginning to do tapestries.

She enjoys her work at the Village, even though she puts in quite a few hours. "I meet so many people from all over the world. Just last week there were some people from Hawaii."

Miss Purdon especially enjoys the people who show a real interest in her work. "You know when you're teaching them something and that makes me feel really good."

Not only is Miss Purdon meeting a lot of people through her job, but she's also picking up some valuable experience. "I plan to major in art or art history, museum practice."



Making candles in the traditional way has given Farmington's Martha Purdon an interesting summer. (Staff photo by Harry Mauth)

2 omitted in new SC catalog

Schoolcraft College this fall is offering two courses, "Schoolcraft Jazz Ensemble" and "Getting a Job With Potential."

If this is heavy to you, it's because the course descriptions were mistakenly left out of the new catalog because of improper binding.

And if you're really interested in the courses, the SC community services department is waiting for your call to tell you all about them.

ALMOST 200 courses are listed in the fall schedule just mailed to every home in the SC district.

Courses in the colorful red, white and blue booklet are being offered at eight locations within the five public school districts in the college district: Clawson, Garden City, Livonia, Northville and Plymouth.

Courses have been scheduled on the main campus, 18000 Haggerty, and at these centers: in Livonia at Dickinson, 18000 Newburgh, Bryant, 18000 Herriman, and St. Mary Hospital; in Garden City at Harrison, 6701 Harrison, and Florence, 3220 Florence; in Northville at the Cooke Annex, 405 W. Main, and in Plymouth at Canton, 8415 Canton Center Road.

Mail-in registrations are being accepted through Friday, Aug. 22. A registration form is included in the schedule booklet. Walk-in registrations will be accepted in person at the registrar's office between noon and 8 p.m. on Sept. 22.

Complete information for the 1975-76 cultural and public affairs series is also contained in the booklet and should be kept for future reference. Separate brochures will not be mailed to district homes as in the past.

Express yourself: suede suiting



Express yourself: suede suiting

hudson's

Child care available

A supervised child care play center will be available to the children of students at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College during fall semester.

There is a registration fee of \$7 for the first child, \$10 for two children, and \$13 for three children. The center is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to serving student-parents, the center serves as a learning environment for OCC students planning careers as elementary teachers and child specialists. The play center is funded by the Orchard Ridge student government and by donations from faculty and staff members.