

Creative Living

Marie McGee editor/591-2300



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Art flourishes in quiet Northport

By Corinne Abbott
staff writer

HEADING NORTH OUT of Traverse City on M-22 to the Leelanau Peninsula, the scene changes dramatically in a few miles and minutes.

The hubbub of the shoreline strip with its clusters of motels, restaurants, miniature golf courses and shops catering to tourists gives way. It is replaced by long interrupted views of the Grand Traverse Bay dotted with sails and summerers to the east and cherry orchards, modest houses and farms to the west.

The traffic on the two-lane blacktop road is light, even at the height of the tourist season. Suttons Bay, 15 miles out, and Northport, another 11, both have a few antique and gift shops and restaurants, but the glitz and neon haven't penetrated so far — there's still an untarnished New England look.

Farmington artist Edee Joppich spends May through October in Northport. She operates Joppich's Bay Street Gallery in partnership with her husband Ted, a Troy-based architect and Herb Joppich, her brother-in-law, an artist living in Royal Oak.

Edee is the anchor person for the gallery. She's there 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week. The brothers and other family members come up on weekends.

BAY STREET, as the name suggests, runs along the shore. Houses are on one side and a grassy park area and sandy beach on the other. The two-room gallery with living quarters in the back is less than a city block from the bay.

The Joppichs bought the lot with a small house on it in 1980 and turned the renovation and enlargement into a two-family project.

"Each of our children did a part of this. This is

'I'm an ambassador for Michigan art. People come from New York, California — a lot from San Francisco — in fact, all over the world, and they are always surprised at the quality of Michigan art. . .'

— Edee Joppich

really a house the Joppich family built," Edee said, standing in front of the gray frame and fieldstone chalet-style house/gallery.

Not only does she mind the gallery with its colorful display of all-Michigan art, she's pursuing her own career as an artist with intense dedication.

She's up at 5:30 a.m. and at work in her barn studio, a block away, by 6 a.m.

"Those hours in the early morning are tremendously productive times for me," she said.

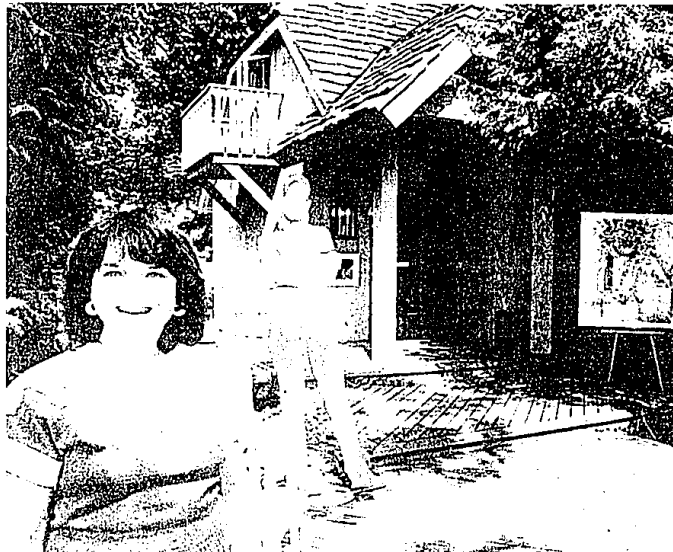
She has completed 17 mixed media collages in preparation for her one-woman show at the Central Michigan University gallery starting Nov. 29. About 10:30 a.m. she walks back to the gallery to change mentally and physically from artist to gallery director. All thoughts of her own art are left behind in the studio.

In heels, stockings and white and mauve outfit, she surveys the gallery just before opening.

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Story on a second Northport gallery, supported by local artists, inside.



Edee Joppich smiles as she is about to open her Northport gallery on a bright summer morning. The painted, metal figure is by Phillip Vander Weg, a native of Niles who is a member of the art faculty

of Middle Tennessee State University. He has also taught at Interlochen Center for the Arts. The painting on the easel is Joppich's.

Staff photos by
Stephen Cantrell

Staff photos by Randy Borst

Developers
leave nature's
beauty intactBy Corinne Abbott
staff writer

Jim and Marilyn Funk, husband and wife and builder/developer partners, smile a lot as they lead the way through their first building project.

As well they should. The Legends of Potawatomi Creek, on Halsted just south of 14 Mile, Farmington Hills, is something to smile about.

Funk left Ford Motor Co. after 17 years as a product planner to found James L. Funk Property Developers Inc. and Funk & Co. Builders Inc.

He's president and she's secretary, but as he explained, "We're partners. Marilyn works on interior design and floor planning with the designers. I call her the 'voice of the customer.' I do more of the financial end and the construction. We really operate on a team concept with everyone involved having input at the regular meetings. They haven't done that before, and they seem to like it."

It was Marilyn who researched the history of the site and found the story of the young Potawatomi brave who went hunting near there and the young woman who loved him and went to look for him when he didn't return. Neither was seen again and a legend about the couple took shape.

In any case, the 30 cluster homes that make up The Legends are situated on about 10 acres of picturesque land replete with mature trees, pleasant views, the creek and soon three ponds, just now under construction.

LESS THAN half of the 10 acres has been used for building, the rest, a portion of it wetlands, is being left as a natural area. The Funk and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have worked closely to maintain the natural, scenic beauty of the land.

The condos are arranged in groups of two, three and four on the rolling terrain. 23 of the 30 have walk-out basements with wide decks above overlooking the woods and ponds.

Birmingham architect Alexander Boggers included many interesting design aspects in the condos finished in light terra cotta brick, aluminum siding and cedar board and batten.

"We wanted everything to look

like it had been here forever," Funk said, noting that they had worked around many of the towering mature trees on the site.

The condos are 2,300 square feet with another 1,000 added if the lower level is finished, as it is in both models, the Legacy and the Heritage. Both are two floors plus full basement with circular stairways to both the second floor and the basement. These gracious curves set the tone for the design that departs dramatically from the rectilinear approach that was standard until recently.

In the Legacy, the master bedroom suite, the great room (22 by 19 feet) with a dining area to the side, kitchen with nook/sitting room (15 by 10 feet) at one end, powder room, foyer (11 by 17 feet) and laundry are all on the first floor. The living room and the foyer both have cathedral ceilings.

UPSTAIRS ARE two guest bedrooms connected by a balcony overlooking the foyer and the great room. Between these two rooms is a hallway, with large closets on each side, leading to the bathroom, accessible to both bedrooms without using the balcony. Thus total privacy is assured.

In the Heritage, the master bedroom suite on the second floor includes two oversize walk-in closets and an equally oversize master bath, which has a "spa" ambience.

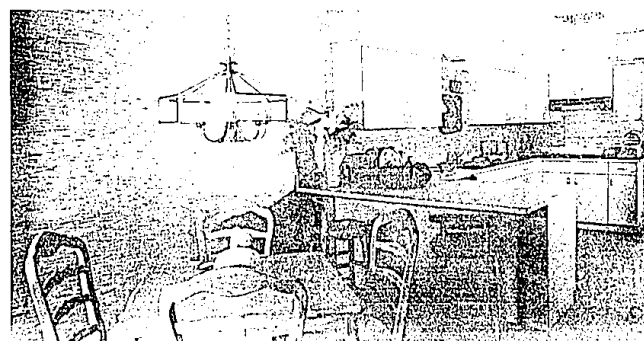
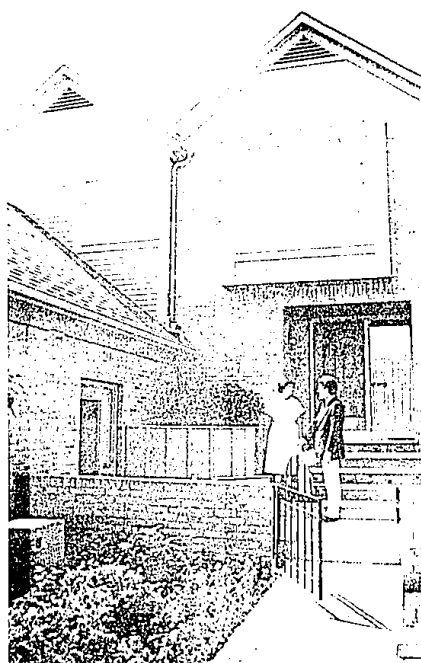
The Heritage great room is deceptive. While it may be listed in the plans as 20 by 14 feet, it opens up to a 12-by-11-foot dining area and that in turn opens to the 14-by-15-foot foyer. So who's to say where one begins and the other ends?

If the interior wall between these rooms and the 18-by-13-foot library were removed (and at least one client has had that done) the open area would cover more than half of the first floor.

There are many touches that will please prospective buyers, from the six-panel interior doors to the brass kickplates on the front doors.

While this corner of the metropolitan area still looks like country, it's developing rapidly into a bustling

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Jim and Marilyn Funk (above left) have paid careful attention to the many little details in planning and construction which often make a big difference to clients. For instance, the copper flashing above the windows. The circular staircase in both models, with interior design by Perlmutter-Freiwald Inc. of Franklin, offers an exciting view of a section of the great room. At left is a view of part of the kitchen and nook/sitting room of the "Legacy" model.