

# CREATIVE LIVING

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## GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

## Students dig in for lessons in gardening

**G**ardens, gardens everywhere! Yes, everyone seems to be getting into gardening, from kids in school to adults in public places.

The school property at Bowers School Farms in Bloomfield Hills is an "outdoor science laboratory" with year-round classes for adults and children, said Doug Spike, manager of the School Farm.

Many activities are at the farm, but a special one involves third graders in the six schools in the Bloomfield School System: Way, Lone Pine, Hickory Grove, Conant, Pine Lake and Eastover. With 75 to 80 students per school, this adds up to a sizable number.

Farm staff members plan the gardens after they learn what the teachers want to accomplish in the subject, such as what crops to plant. This year potatoes and other root crops and leaf crops are included. Sunflowers grow at the corner of each garden and a common area is set aside for pumpkins. The best crops have been tomatoes, beans and corn.

The ground is prepared in early spring with the compost from the farm rotted into it. The gardens are planted the last week of May.

As the summer progresses and the plants grow, the students and parents (who also learn) come to work for only one hour at a time, five times each summer. They sign in at the gate, keep a record of what they did, what was harvested, what changes they observed, and what they took home to eat.

When fall classes resume, they learn from these notes. So they learn about planting, how the plants grow, how to harvest and how to preserve, such as freezing, drying and canning. Salas is made in the fall. Care is taken to plant crops that will be ready for harvest when school begins in September.

Each garden is identical, about 30 by 30 feet, and follows a master plan. Rows are marked with stakes and red yarn. Each school has a large sign identifying its garden plot.

A large garden plan is posted in each school and each student is given a booklet listing the plants and showing the layout. Everything is labeled; workers soon learn to recognize a weed from a precious vegetable.

Along with the gardening, students learn about native Michigan crops (pinto and navy beans, for instance), and Christmas trees (who buys them, including local and foreign customers).

Doug has seen the gardens grow in the 15 years he has been manager. This year, in order to involve more parents, evening hours have been added. Master gardeners are on hand two nights a week to supervise and answer questions.

"We could not do this without master gardeners," Doug said.

### At the zoo

Master gardeners from Oakland and Wayne counties are also busy at the Detroit Zoo gardens.

This spring about 30 people worked diligently to clean out the river and ponds and prepare beds for a new butterfly and hummingbird garden in the Back Yards for Wildlife area. Perennials were divided and replanted, gardens were weeded, wood chips were spread and all

See FIGLEY, 4E



View from above: Artist Kim Fay sits beneath an angel that is holding a bowl of pasta, one of the cheery cherubs she painted on Troy resident Kathleen Sheridan's kitchen ceiling.

## Winging it

## Decor takes new angle with angels



Kathleen Sheridan's kitchen has always been joyful, but it has a special glow now with angels painted on the ceiling by artist Kim Fay. The angled ceiling kitchen features three angels, each with a different kind of significant food.

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

A summer movie features "Angels in the Outfield." Kathleen Sheridan's Troy house features angels in the kitchen all year.

Sheridan's kitchen has always been heavenly, but now it is so in a special way: with three angels painted by artist Kim Fay of Royal Oak on the angled ceiling of the room.

Cooking and mealtime have long been important to Sheridan's family life.

"My dad used to say, 'Always try to get everyone at the table,'" said Sheridan, a freelance writer who is writing a cookbook.

"I really think the kitchen is the soul."

She got the idea to have angels painted on the ceiling of the kitchen of her home about a year ago. "I love angels. I often saw people as little angels. I love to cook, I cook all the time. I needed inspiration."

Through designer Beverly Pierson of Pierson & Pierson of Birmingham, Sheridan got in touch with Fay, principal artist of Point on the Wall of Royal Oak. After a two-day consultation with Sheridan, Fay came up with a design.

"I was going to bring information on how I picture them, but that's what angels are all about - trust," Sheridan said.

"I wanted them to be happy. I love the way it turned out."

The design features three angels, each wearing a chef's hat. The tallest angel is about 2 feet tall. Because of the angle of the ceiling, the cheery cherubs can be seen from

the living room.

Each angel has a different personality - coy, aristocratic, open.

"I can't explain it, it just happened," Fay said of the angels' faces.

"We were watching them develop, wondering if (each) would be a boy or a girl."

The women decided that two of the angels are boys and one is a girl.

One cherub holds a torte, representing the torte Sheridan created and sold to area businesses about 20 years ago. One holds a bowl of spaghetti and meatballs, representing Sheridan's family's love of Italian food. One gestures toward a can of Dinty Moore stew ("That's my husband's favorite dinner, even though I'm a cook," Sheridan explained).

Besides the angels, Sheridan wanted to have some kind of saying. The message "No Matter How Your Day is Going Always Have a Good Lunch" forms a flowing border along one wall.

"It worked out nicely," said Fay, who attended Andover High School and earned a degree in art from Central Michigan University.

After graduation, Fay sold radio advertising until a few years ago when she decided to follow her original dream of having a career in art. She started her Point on the Wall business after she painted a Winnie the Pooh mural on a baby's room wall for a friend.

Working from a ladder and the countertop, with Mozart playing in

See ANGELS, 5E

## Sculptor makes his art in Italian tradition

BY LINDA CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

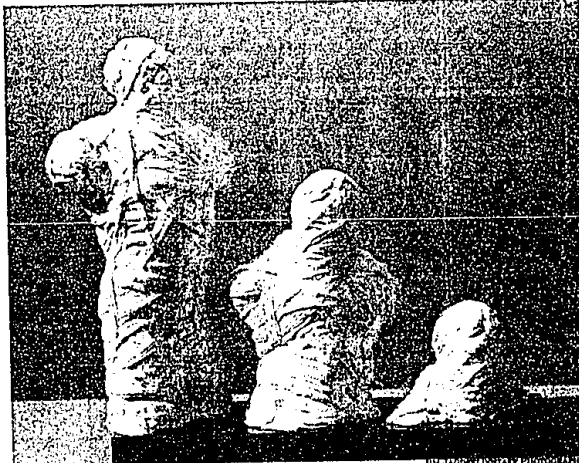
Working in clay to sketch a proposed relief for permanent installation in a new Livonia cultural center Sergio De Giusti, surrounded by the work in his Redford Township studio, looks every bit the internationally commissioned sculptor he is.

Over the years, the Italian born De Giusti has created public art that includes a 20 panel frieze for the rotunda of the State of Michigan Library and Archives Building in Lansing, four bronze panels on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, and bronze doors for the Church of San Vito in Italy.

Sculpture - relief and three dimensional funds are desperately needed to handle the influx of calls.

The MDC at 1700 Stuts is the resource market for the interior design profession. Open to the trade only, consumers are welcome in the company of their interior designer, architect or builder. For free designer and architect referral, call the MDC office at (810) 649-4772.

See TRADITION, 4E



JIM JACOBUS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Looking for work: A three-dimensional figurative sculpture by Sergio DeGiusti is shrouded in despair and indignity. The work is a representation of the poem "What Work Is" by Philip Levine.

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eclectic Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling (810) 644-1314.

### HELPING HAVEN

More than 2,400 consumers filled the Michigan Western Center for its semiannual Floor. Bazaar Sale last month, at which its showrooms offered their finest floor samples to the public at substantial savings. HAVEN, Oakland County's domestic violence shelter and counseling center, received a portion of the proceeds. MDC general manager Susan Zinger presented a check for more than \$3,000 to Hedy Nuriel, HAVEN's executive director. "It was a great weekend," Zinger said. "Our customers found domestic boys, and we're delighted to be able to make this contribution to HAVEN."

"This contribution allows us to care for 12 abused women and children for a month,"

## Art Beat

Nuriel said. "With all the recent publicity, additional funds are desperately needed to handle the influx of calls."

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### A DEGREE OF RECOGNITION

David Deutsch, executive vice president of Leo Knight Photography in Southfield, was awarded a photographic craftsman degree by the

Professional Photographers of America at the association's national convention in Denver last month. The degree is earned by acquiring 25 "merits." These merits are given for sharing expertise with other professional photographers through seminars or articles. Deutsch's associate, Leo Knight, presented him with the degree at the convention.

Locally, Deutsch was named Detroit's Photographer of the Year, 1994 for the third straight year. The trophy goes to the person who consistently outscored other photographers in semiannual print competitions in January and October.

For the third year in a row, two of Deutsch's entries were accepted into the FPA's traveling loan collection exhibit, His "Loan Collection" images will be published later this year.

Deutsch has been a practicing professional photographer for more than 12 years.



MARTY FIGLEY

Growing experience: At work at the Bowers School Farm in Bloomfield Hills are Drew Fullenkamp (left), Josh Saginaw, David Saginaw, Ashley Stratton and mother Sheri Saginaw (far right).

## LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

■ A visit with Birmingham artist Peter Gillman, whose paintings and drawings will be in the Art on the Green fair in Franklin.

■ Mary Klemic's Perspectives column.

■ Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.