

## COVER STORY

# MURAL MURAL ON THE WALL

STORY BY LINDA ANN CHIOVIN, SPECIAL WRITER

Whether you're a sports enthusiast or simply looking to fill a space on the wall, murals hold the key to brightening living environments. Two area families employed entirely different subject matter to bring the

## On the cover:

Shireen Agah painted the 17th hole of the Muirfield Golf Course on the bedroom wall of Phil Karbo, who spent the summer recovering from knee surgery.

kept any reservations to herself as Agah began to sponge on the foliage of trees.

"At first when I saw all that green I was unsure about having given my permission, but knew if we ended up not liking it we could paint the wall. As she progressed with each layer of color my pleasure from looking at the scene overcame any doubts," said Karbo, whose entire family golfs.

## Vacationing at home

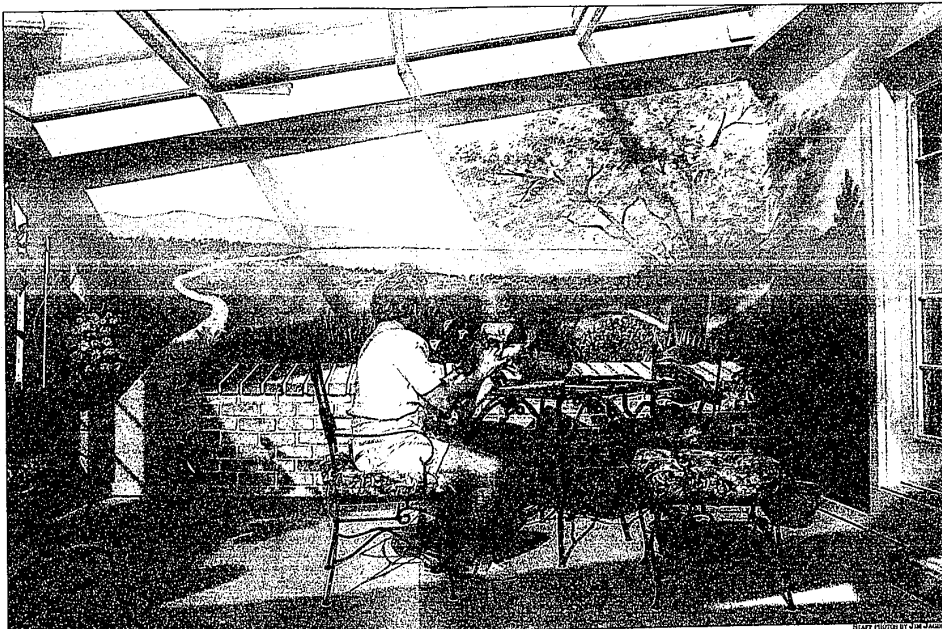
Paul and Karen Camilleri spent more than \$50,000 renovating their 8-year-old house in Livonia this summer because they feel "there's no place like home." The addition of a sun room on the back of the house created a problem, though. A long expanse of wall presented a void to fill. Camilleri knew artist Julie Giordano, of Giordano Studios in Northville, from their student days at Bishop Borgas High School. The brick wall running through the mural (Giordano's idea) extends the exterior of the home into the glassed-in sun area. A cold air return was masked with flowering chives by Giordano.

"We just really enjoy our home," said Karen Camilleri, who conceived the concept for the mural after a favorite vacation spot where the family relaxes at a cottage by the water.

"We wanted the mural to look like a courtyard. We wanted the room to be warm and inviting. The goal is to eventually have the room filled with plants. We're trying to achieve a park-like atmosphere back here. This (the mural) was interesting. You don't see too many walls like this."

Giordano sponged in a huge old tree on the right of the wall. Abstract flowers on the left add brightness with primary yellow and red. Overall, the room works together with an \$8,000 water-fall and pond filled with water hyacinths, lotus, water lilies and iris to create a haven for nature.

"At first I wasn't sure about a mural but now I feel it's nice, the flowers and green," Paul Camilleri said.



Green dreaming: If Phil Karbo can't be on the course at least he can dream of the challenges waiting for him.



Smell the flowers: The Camilleri family intends to spend a lot of time enjoying the park-like atmosphere of their Livonia home with its mural by artist Julie Giordano. Karen Camilleri conceived the idea for the mural in her family's sun room after a favorite vacation spot. Camilleri is shown here with her 10-month-old son, Kevin. A closeup of the mural is seen above.

STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGGERS