



"The Corpse" a comedy thriller featuring Geoff Larkin (left) and Stephen Tadevic opens at the Village Players playhouse, 752 Chestnut, Birmingham. Call (810) 644-2075.

SATURDAY



Janis Ian and Chet Atkins are among the many performers at the 19th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival 6 p.m. at Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University. Tickets are \$25, call (313) 763-TKTS or (810) 645-6666.

SUNDAY



Second City Detroit presents its sixth revue "Computer Chips and Salsa," 2301 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 965-2222 for reservations, information.



Hot tix: See Big Bird, Elmo, Zoe, Cookie Monster all at your Sesame Street Live Friends at Sesame Street Live's "Let's Be Friends" through Feb. 4 at the Fox Theatre. Call (810) 433-1515.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

KEELY WYGONIK, EDITOR • 313-953-2105

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1998 • PAGE 1 SECTION B



Rehearsing: Conductor Paul Barber leads the Farmington Community Band in a rehearsal to prepare for the upcoming festival.



Practice makes perfect: Dave Londa, first chair trombone, and Bruce Barrett, second chair rehearse, with Michelle Belt.

Festival features community bands

BY MATT JACHIMAN
STAFF WRITER

16th annual Festival of Bands lineup Saturday, Jan. 27 - Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi:

- 11 a.m. - Schoolcraft College Community Wind Ensemble, directed by James Wissen.
- 12 p.m. - Plymouth Community Band, directed by Carl Battistini.
- 1 p.m. - Combined concert featuring the Schoolcraft College Community Wind Ensemble and the Plymouth Community and Novi Concert bands.
- 2 p.m. - Novi Concert Band, directed by Jack Kopnick.
- 4:30 p.m. - South Oakland Community Band, directed by George Gillespie.
- 6:30 p.m. - Birmingham Community Band, directed by Grant Hiemke.
- 8:30 p.m. - Combined concert featuring the South Oakland, Birmingham and Farmington community bands.
- 7:30 p.m. - Farmington Community Band, directed by Paul Barber.

Six community bands from the metropolitan area will head to Twelve Oaks Mall Saturday, Jan. 27, for the 16th annual Festival of Bands.

The festival, eight free concerts throughout the day in the mall's center court, gives band members a chance to socialize and showcase their skills together. Each band will perform for about an hour, and two other concerts will each feature the combined efforts of three bands.

It's an event band members and mall visitors alike look forward to, said Paul Barber, a festival founder.

"We've been real successful," Barber said. "The same bands come back every year."

Carl Grapentine of radio station WNIB in Chicago is the festival's master of ceremonies. Grapentine is a former Detroit disc jockey.

The concerts begin at 11 a.m. and run through about 8:30 p.m., with a break of

about an hour and a half. Barber, music coordinator for the Farmington Public Schools, is a founder and director of the Farmington Community Band, which is in its 30th season.

The 65-member band's purpose is threefold, Barber said. It gives adults who've studied instrumental music a forum for musical expression, provides an opportunity for community service and offers some high school musicians "enrichment outside of the traditional school setting."

"It has a multitude of blessings," he said. Barber and his wife, Fern, founded the band in 1968 during their first year of teaching.

The band has a wide repertoire that includes baroque music, Broadway show tunes, marches and contemporary music. It also has smaller units, including Dixieland and jazz groups.

Twelve Oaks has been supportive of the festival from the outset, Barber said.

Throughout the years, the festival has featured a wide

variety of music, Barber said. Only once that he can remember was the same piece played by two different bands, he said. "Every year, I listen to all eight concerts," he said.

Grant Hiemke, director of the Birmingham Community Band, said community bands are increasing in popularity around the country. The Birmingham band, he said, provides a "very friendly open kind of atmosphere" that encourages musicians to participate.

Hiemke, in his 16th season as music director of the Birmingham band, is an instrumental music teacher in the Farmington district. The Birmingham band has a unit that gives concerts of Dixieland-style music and raises money for scholarships to the state's Interlochen arts and music camp.

Twelve Oaks Mall is at I-96 and Novi Road. The concerts are free for mall visitors. For more information, call (313) 261-2202 or (810) 489-3412.

EXHIBITION

Artist brings out character of everyday objects

"Realism in Clay"

What's Exhibit by Gail Rosenbloom Kaplan

Where: Janice Charach Epstein Museum/Gallery in the Jewish Community Center, 5800 W. Maple at Drake, West Bloomfield, through February 28.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Artists presentation 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28.

Cost: \$10 to \$15

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Seeing is believing when it comes to "Realism in Clay," the current exhibit by Gail Rosenbloom Kaplan at the Janice Charach Epstein Museum/Gallery in the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

Kaplan, whose studio is in Farmington Hills, creates trompe l'oeil works.

It isn't just that the pieces look realistic. These everyday objects, as presented by the artist, convey character. They could be stand-ins for their owners.

The most realistic works are those depicting items handled in regular use. You sense there is a real life in this realism. A suitcase bears a busy surface of scuffmarks. A gym bag is shiny in small patches. A toe of a work shoe is slightly curved upward, as if strapping on a bike bag. A golf glove is creased, a briefcase is worn.

Cowboy boots form a pair like two relaxed friends; the top of one boot is slumped to the side as if weary.

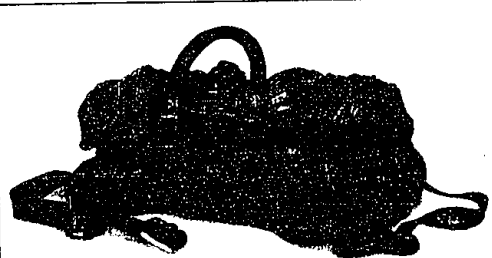
Some pieces are tantalizing, tempting touch. A string mop leans against the wall at just the angle at which you expect it to slip to the side. Heavily creased blue jeans are just balanced on a banister, as if a jacket on a stool.

A folded umbrella on a doorknob protruding from a wall is an example of the artist's keen eye. The tip of the umbrella ribs aren't tucked into the ring of the handle. How often do you notice this when you fold an umbrella?

Kaplan's art works on a larger scale, too, as shown by a saddle featured in the exhibit.

The pieces are built as puzzles. Kaplan starts with solid blocks of clay. The works are cut and hollowed into sections, then reassembled.

A presentation by the artist is scheduled 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28.



Carrying character: Farmington Hills artist Gail Rosenbloom Kaplan brings character to her trompe l'oeil works, such as this worn gym bag. Kaplan's exhibit, "Realism in Clay," is at the Janice Charach Epstein Museum/Gallery in West Bloomfield. A presentation by Kaplan is scheduled for Sunday afternoon.