

ART BEAT

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to Art Beat, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150, fax them to (734) 531-7279, or e-mail (as a text file) to lchomni@oe.hancomm.net.

GRAND RE-OPENING
The Plymouth Historical Museum will re-open with a dedication of the new addition today. The museum, which has been closed for remodeling since February, will hold an open house 2-5 p.m. with the dedication at 2:30 p.m. There is no admission charge.

The addition includes a new ground-level entrance, a passenger elevator, restrooms on the first floor for complete visitor accessibility, and a permanent exhibit area for the Abraham Lincoln collection to be opened in February 2002. Expanded Main Street exhibits and new storage areas were also included in the renovation.

The museum also features a newly expanded gift shop specializing in Victorian merchandise with historic reproductions of gifts and toys for children. Lincoln and Civil War items are also available.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is at 155 South Main Street. Its open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, and Saturday-Sunday. Admission is \$3, \$1 students, no charge for children under age five. For information, call (734) 455-8940.

YOUNG SINGERS WANTED
The Livonia Youth Choir is holding auditions for girls and boys (boys must have unchanged voices) in grades 4-9 (ages 9-13) residing in Livonia and surrounding communities 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia.

For more information, call (734) 425-1749.

HOST FAMILIES WANTED
The Livonia Rotary Club and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp's International Exchange Program are looking for families or singles to host a French jazz group Aug. 10-13.

The 19-member Ecole de Musique d'improvisation Jazz will perform Sunday, Aug. 12 at Rotary Park in Livonia. Hosts will be responsible for the musicians from dinnertime Friday night until Monday. The only criterion is a friendly attitude.

This is the fifth Blue Lake

sponsored music group hosted by the Livonia Rotary Club. For more information, call Bill Cameron at (734) 522-2643 or send e-mail to bumpy@junocorn.

DINNER THEATER
The Great Ypsilanti Train Robbery of 1916: An Evening of Historical License returns 6:15 and 8:15 p.m. Friday, Aug. 3 to the Angel Food Cafe, 6 West Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti. Tickets are \$39.95 per person and include choice of three entrees. Advance ticket purchase and meal selection is required. Call (734) 483-0135.

The Great Ypsilanti Train Robbery of 1916: An Evening of Historical License is loosely based on a real heist, that's still unsolved. Ample amounts of historical license allow for a creative blend of history, comedy and music.

ART IN THE PARK
The Arts League of Michigan is looking for students throughout the metro Detroit area who have an interest in pursuing the arts as a career and are eager for an experience that will challenge and engage them.

Art in the Park, July 30 to Aug. 10, is a four-hour a day program offered at no charge to students in grades 7-12. Under the guidance of a professional artist, students will create art in the park at Nankin Mills in Westland after completing lessons in the visual arts, poetry and photography.

In 1999-2000, the Artists Mentorship Program students worked in dance, literature, vocal and jazz music.

For more information, call (313) 870-1680.

WRITING SEMINAR

Are you tired of writer's block? Need inspiration to pick up a pen or some tips to help write a story?

Cheryl Vatcher can help you during writing seminars offered 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 31 at the Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman, (\$38).

Coming up with ideas is easier than you think. If you've already formulated a story, and want to work on it, Vatcher will help you do that. Vatcher, a Plymouth writer who earned a master's

degree from University of Michigan's School of Education, has penned articles for several metro Detroit newspapers.

For more information, or to register, call (734) 414-8680.


MUSIC IN THE PARK
The Plymouth Community Arts Council continues its Music in the Park series with The Music Lady, Beverly Meyer, at noon Wednesday, Aug. 1 in Kel-



logg Park, Plymouth. Laz of Gemini performs Aug. 8, Chautauqua Express, Aug. 15; and Marc Thomas & Max the Moose, Aug. 22. For information, call (734) 416-4278.

WOODY GUTHRIE
Bruce Lilen presents his one man show featuring the music and words of Woody Guthrie, 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 1950

Trumbull, Detroit, across from the old Tiger Stadium. Refreshments served (weather permitting) 6:30 p.m. on the church lawn. No charge, pass the hat, proceeds benefit the Gwitch'in people who are seeking to preserve their culture by opposing oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. (313) 849-1048.

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Dinner Theater: Sara Grivas (left) of Livonia and Janelle Reahm work together to help solve the mystery of the "Great Ypsilanti Train Robbery of 1916."

		
 AUGUST 11	 AUGUST 16	 AUGUST 17
 AUGUST 22	 AUGUST 29	 AUGUST 30
 SEPTEMBER 2	 SEPTEMBER 3	 AUGUST 19
 SEPTEMBER 2	 SEPTEMBER 6	 SEPTEMBER 1
 SEPTEMBER 2	 SEPTEMBER 15	 AUGUST 19

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FREE GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION JULY 28 & 29