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she also wants to raise awareness of the art center which provides classes for children and adults, rotating exhibits of contemporary art, and the annual Art & Apples Festival in early September.

"What we're trying to do is to bring new guests or potential members into the center," said Ohno. "We have it here so people know what Paint Creek is like. It's fundraising but also friend-raising."

"The database management is to have a clear picture of how we can grow. We currently have 800 members."

Pamela Mitzfeld has watched the art center grow over the last six years, four of them as president. For a second year she's co-chairing the art party with Megan Barry.

"I've seen the quality and range of the exhibitions increase tremendously, the offerings expanded with Sunday concerts and outreach programs. April 19-21 students from Kingsbury School in Oxford will display their art here. It's encouraging student artists. We're here to serve the community. That's why it's important to support events like this," said Mitzfeld.

"It's going to be a multi-level art experience with music and a very visual food presentation by Peter Maniaci of Novelle Cuisine, and a sorbet bar with fresh fruit salsa. It's going to make you feel that you're in a Polynesian setting. We invite guests to get into the theme of the event with attire."

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call Observer & Eccentric arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to [lchomin@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:lchomin@oe.homecomm.net)

## Artist doesn't let age stop her from painting

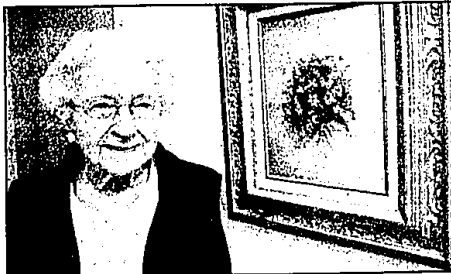
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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Olive Salley claims she's been painting since she was born. Looking around her Livonia apartment I was amazed at the dozens of paintings hung on walls in every room. Maybe she wasn't born with a brush in her hand but she's spent the better part of her 95-years creating the landscapes and florals.

Salley has her own little gallery lining the hallway leading into the living room but I would never have known about it if it weren't for Wanda Ferguson who contacted us about the "delightful lady" she's become fond of. Every Thursday, Ferguson delivers Meals on Wheels to Salley. They've become good friends over the last 4 years.

"From the first day I walked in I was struck by the art work. Then she said, 'I did it,'" said Ferguson, a Livonia resident. "She's a terrific artist and a very lovely lady."

Forest scenes, flowers, an Indian princess — Salley painted them all after studying art at St. Mary's Academy in Windsor for four years. She can tell you the story behind each of the oils that make the view-



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACOBSON

**Seasoned artist: At age 95, Olive Salley is still going strong with her painting.**

er feel as if they were right there. One was painted after a photograph taken on a vacation; another was done especially for her son Joseph.

The lavender flower garden was inspired by her teacher, the late Marie Tuthill who was known in the area for her paintings. Salley says of her, "she was an inspiration

to us all," but today it is the 95-year old painter setting an example the rest of us should follow.

When her eyes became so bad that she could no longer work on canvas, Salley didn't quit. She simply switched to painting pansies and violets on bookmarks. It was an art she learned long ago from Marie Storey, a china painting

instructor. In the dining room, visitors can't help but notice all of the tea sets, vases and eggs she decorated with flowers several years ago. The eggs — Salley boasts, she's painted hundreds of them.

It's hard to imagine where she found the time. Married at a young age, Salley raised two small children alone after the death of her husband. She is quick to brag about Joseph Salley and Laura Nash as well as her one grandchild and two great grandchildren. Joseph bought her a magnifying light for Christmas so she could continue to create the bookmarks with china paint.

Years ago Salley used photographs as reference for her paintings. Now she creates the florals from memory. Delicate pansies lyrically wind their way across the paper.

Why does she continue to paint after all these years? That's an easy question for her to answer.

"So I can keep going," said Salley. "If I didn't have my painting I don't think I'd last 10 minutes. It inspires me to keep going. I love art."

## See bike, skate action at Nickelodeon's live Rocket Power show

Think sports competition, cartoon and theatrical narrative and you've got some idea what you'll see at Nickelodeon's Maximum Rocket Power Live!

A live-action version of the

animated television show blasts into The Palace of Auburn Hills this weekend.

Shows are at 7 p.m. Friday, April 5, 11 a.m., 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 6 and 1 and 5

p.m. Sunday, April 7. Tickets range from \$12.50-\$25. They're available through Ticketmaster outlets and by calling (248) 646-6666.

The Nickelodeon series airs at

5 p.m. weekdays and on week-end mornings. In both the animated show and the live production, four friends learn important lessons through a shared interest in extreme sports. A new situation in each animated episode tests their friendship, but Otto Rocket, his sister Reggie Rocket, and pals Sam

Dillard and Twister Rodriguez, always move forward (whether on skateboard or Rollerblades), learning and growing.

The live show pits Otto and his friends — who call themselves Sam's Shore Shack Sharks — against Lars, Pi and Spitz's Raging Riptides, in pulse-pounding events that include a three-

on-three BMX bike race, blading high-jump, in-line team skating race, skateboarding and other extreme sports.

The show culminates in a dare-devil event that has two skaters leaping for life through a steel pair of suspended, smoke-spewing, rotating gyro-jaws.

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## Cranbrook Heritage Lecture Series

Sunday afternoons at 2 pm.  
Unless noted, all presentations will be held in Cranbrook Art Museum's de Salle Auditorium. Fee: \$5 per lecture.

April 7 *Cranbrook: The Community Academy of Art, Art Museum, Institute of Science and Schools*

April 14 *The Scripps and Booth Families: Culture Barons of Michigan*  
Location: Cranbrook Schools: Kingswood Campus Auditorium

April 21 *History of Cranbrook*

April 28 *Cranbrook's Outdoor Sculpture and Award-Winning Architecture*

May 5 *Eliel Saarinen's Architecture in Finland and the United States*

Those interested in becoming docents will attend the five-part series and post lecture discussions as part of their training. Pre-register by calling 248-645-3149

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## NOVI EXPO CENTER

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Saturday, April 6, 10am-10pm  
Sunday, April 7, 10am-6pm

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