## Festival from page B1.

On a more serious note, Hull talks about collaborating with the Livonia Mall on this year's festi-

Livonia Mail on the year.

"It's difficult moving from one mall to another, meeting with mall administration but I got a warm and exciting feeling that they wanted us here. They're in tune with bringing the community to the mall for performances and events."

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Bobbi Gelman is just as excited about having the VSA featival at the mall. She supports everything the nonprofit organization does including providing therapeutic music, dance and drama classes and scholarships for children and adults with disabilities. When a committee member called to say the festival was looking for a new home she took it as a sign. For the last two years the mall held its own arts festival in March. Only a few days earlier Farmington Musicale contacted Gelman about holding performances at the mall during the statement of the statem ing performances at the mall dur-ing National Music Week May 6-12.

'I'm most excited about re-energizing our festival by bringing in VSA and Farmington Musicale," said Gelman. "I'm excited about having more group support and to add to that in years to come. When the calls from both groups all fell io the same week it told me something. - that this was meant to

be."
Now Gelman is finalizing dozens of details just like Hull. Order 800 red, white and blue pinwheels to

give out to children in keeping with the Sights and Sounds of America theme. No balloons because of the VSA children and adults with allergies. Where to place the 40 pieces of art in the touring exhibit of emerging artists spotlighted by VSA arts of Michigan. Set aside at least four tables for the group's hands-on art activities.

we'll have Showtime at the Apollo auditions for talented children ages 5-12, the semi-finals May 9, finals May 11, an part of the festival, and Gelman. We do 6-12 events a month, lots of family performances. We did 40-50 performances in December alone. In addition to the VSA exhibit the mail's Grass Roots Gallery will feature local artists, and Sherry Morgan who takes mannequin body parts and gainte them will be demonstrating in Sears Court.\*

Ronda Music, the newest Southeast Region Committee member, is coordinating the hands-on art activities for children during the VSA performances. The West Bloomfield resident has plenty of experience. She teaches art to 625-children a week, including those with special needs, in West Bloomfield School.

"I want for kids, whatever they walk away with, to feel successful, said Music, who's volunteered with VSA arts of Michigan five years." I think the festival is wonderful. I'm sending the fiyers for it to all the arts teachers in the district. I think it's important the "We'll have Showtime at the

word gets out."

Karen Barsy, a dance therapist with Livonia Public Schools, couldn't agree more. She'll bring her Dance Magic group of special needs students to the festival 12:30 pm. Saturday, May 4.

"We're performing in juzz style," said Barsy, "We just started this year. This is the first class of its type. All are mobile, special needs students ages 6-13. We had one boy who didn't intermingle and he's really interacting. His mom says theis the only place he does that. I love the kids, love seeing the progress. For the special needs kids when they perform it's like another world opens up for them."

Like Barsy, Lourie Davis is grateful for the festival which gives children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to perform for the general public. At FAR Conservatory in Birmingham where Davis is a creative arts therapist, students look forward to showing off their skills in music, dance and drama. The conservatory will hold a free recital of its own 6 p.m. Thursday, May 2. Music, dance, theater and puppets are on the program at the conservatory inside First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple. Call (248) 646-3347 for more information.

This is the first year in the Livonia Mile style is conservatory students ages 12 to 26. Conservatory students Kelly Miles of Novi and Ben Monkaba, Troy, also will perform.

will perform a drum solo, beginning 1:45 p.m. Saturday, May 4.

"Our program is very upbeat, hip hop, It's something they listen to, something they enjoy so performing is much more enjoyable, said Davis, a Farmington Hills resident who earned a master's degree in art therapy from Wayne State University.

"The excited because at first they were shy, it was a challenge. Now they focus more. Knowing they're going to perform release their inhibitions. I see them coming together as a unit and enjoying the camaraderic. We have a couple of Down's Syndrome kids, one who never picked up her feet. She does now thanks to the Popcorn dance.
"My father gave me the gift of dance. I was very shy, I came alive when it came time to dance,"

Marjorio Van Hoy knows the power of music. That's why she joined Farmington Musicale 10 years ago. She hopes droves of people will help them celebrate National Music Week. Like the VSA festival, Farmington Musicale is bringing their lineup of performers to a new location this year. In the past, they held annual National Music Week performances at Tel-Twelve Mall, Twelve Oaks, Somerset, and Laurel Park Place. In addition to the Livonia Mall performances this year, they will also hold a concert to benefit their annual scholarship competition 7 p.m. Saturday, May 11 at the Castic Center in Farmington Hills, Headlining the program is the Christa Gris Jazz Trio. Call (248) 471-6017 for tickets.

"Farmington Musicale is a group

of musicians and people who appreciate music and who meet once a month, Soptember to June, since 1965, said Van Hoy who'll perform ragime and semi-classical pieces that she composed for pianc. 'Wo're part of the National Federation of Music Clubs founded in 1898, Music clubs in the Detroit area first organized festivals in malls 30 years ago. Music West celebrates the universality of music. This year's thome is "Music, a Language of the Heart. It focuses on the universal joy that comes from performing or listening to the music."

The Celebrate the Arts festival gives us a chance to interact spontaneously with people over things we've written. Wo're excited about working together with VSA and the Livonia Mall to share the musical arts with the public."

## Alpert from page B1

funding cuts and increased national program costs, we are proud to have been able to present a number of recent programs that celebrated achievements in the arts when external funding or organizational networking permitted. These include special editions of Backatage Pass that profiled the winners of ArtiServe Michigan's Governors' Arts Awards and our broadcasts of The Sphinx Composition, an annual event that presents young African-American and Latino classical music talents. And thanks to other donors, new broadcast efforts to enhance the arts and education will be seen on Channel 56 in the days and weeks shead:

With funding from the Johnson Controls Foundation, Different These, a one-hour special that showcases select winers of the Michigan Student Film and Video Awards, airs Sunday, May 5, at 4 p.m. Hosted by Elliot Wilhelm, Coetroit Film Theatre and Detroit Public TV's Friday night Film Festival), this one-hour program spotlights into film makers from around

this one-hour program spotlights nine filmmakers from around

providing insight from the young artists on the creative process, each followed by the airing of their work. Local winners include High and Dry, created in stop-motion animation by Richard Wohlfeil of William Ford Career Tech Center in Westland, and From Farm to Table, an instructional piece created by Valerie Brown and Devin Termi-ni of Oakland Schools in Water-

ni of Oakland Schools in Water-ford.

■ Later this month, through
the support of SBC Ameritech
and the Agnes Scott Memorial
Pund, Detrict Public TV welcomes winners of it's annual
Reading Rainbow Young Writers
and Illustrators Awards to our
studios. Wo'll showcase works children from Plymouth,
Rochester, Bloomfield, Canton,
Farmington Hills, Detroit and
many other local communities on
a Channel 56 special airing June
11-12 and 14 and 16 during daytime children's programming.

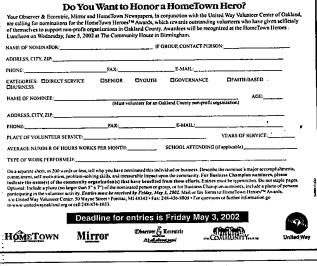
■ We'll bring new video
attention to the Detroit Zoo and
Detroit Historical Museum with
Welcome to Youwille, airing May
20-24 at 1:00 p.m. In the halfhour special, which is supple-

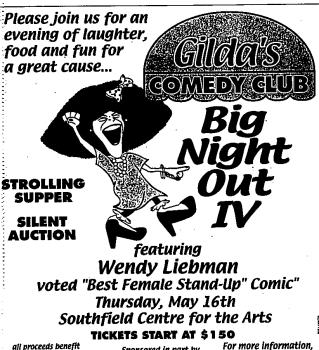
mented with a fun CD-ROM and teacher materials, second graders from Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties develop the skills necessary to imagine, plan and create "the community of their dreams."

Perhans there's a lesson here Perhaps there's a lesson here for us all. As we prepare to be in the Super Bowl spetlight in 2006, we must set the stage by learning to create the community of our dreams right now. We can best succeed by taking advantage of the enthusinatic autionation of comparison of the party of the communication of the continuation of the party of the p advantage of the enthusiastic participation offered by our region's cultural leaders. Detroit Public TV, through its partnerships with viewers, cultural organizations and educational institutions, is committing and searching for resources toward that goal. Learn more at detroit-publictv.org, and join us!

Dan Alpert is chief operating officer and seation manager of Detroit Public Television. He is one of the guest columnists

Detroit Fuolic Television. He is one of the guest columnists appearing in a series that intro-duces Observer & Eccentric read-crs to the people behind the insti-tutions and organizations in the arts community.





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