

**Fine Arts** from page C1

That's exactly why Bob Sheridan and the rest of the Livonia Arts Commissioners initiated the fine arts exhibit four years ago. They wanted to give Michigan artists the opportunity to show their work as well as vie for cash prizes. This year Robert Wilbert, an art professor at Wayne State University for 39 years, had the difficult job of judging entries. The \$2,600 in prizes draws some of the best artists in the area. To give viewers more time to see the winners, the 51 pieces will be installed in the fine arts gallery at the Livonia Civic Center Library after their showing June 10-11 at Greenmead. The library exhibit continues through June 30.

"We felt we had a beautiful setting with historical houses

**Air of festivity**

Stephanie Skaggs is one of the reasons Livonia does such a good job of promoting the arts. The Livonia Arts Commissioner is chairing the 24th annual Livonia Arts Festival in addition to coordinating the arts extravaganza featuring the outdoor show and indoor exhibit. She spends all year visiting art fairs in the area for clues on how to make it work. Take art, add Ecumondrian and folk music plus a variety of food and she has a winning combination.

"There's lots of fairs on the streets of metro Detroit but our setting is very historical plus the fact that we have fine art on display in the buildings," said arts commissioner Skaggs. "For the

festival we'll have 50 percent new exhibitors. And for the first time Arts & Scraps will offer children the chance to make hands-on projects from recyclable materials. It will give parents a little more time to browse through the booths."

A portion of food sales from the Thal House and other vendors will go to support nonprofit organizations such as the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, Theatre Guild of Livonia Redford, Livonia Historical Commission, Friends of Greenmead, and VSA Arts of Michigan.

"We'll have everything from hot dogs and hamburgers to Thal food," said Skaggs. "Everybody benefits that way, the visitors and the organizations."

**Expressions** from page C1

community Jazz Band, a smaller ensemble comprised of members of the Farmington Community Band, will play June 29. The Farmington Community Jazz Band is sure to put crowds in the Mood with tunes from Glen Miller, Stan Kenton, Woody Herman and Count Basie.

Founded by Barber and his wife Fern in 1966, the Farmington Community Band will play 12-15 concerts this year including the Farmington Area Family Festival Tuesday, June 20.

Now in its 34th season, the band has grown from a six-member group to a 65-member concert band plus a 20-piece jazz band, clarinet choir, Dixieland band and several other small ensembles.

"We're a group of 60 some musicians with full brass and percussion and smaller groups that allow us to explore different genres," said Barber. "The jazz band gives people a chance to play in a Big Band like an 18-piece Glen Miller."

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**Paul Barber**  
Farmington Community Band

musical talents to use. She's a full-time mom and business manager for the band.

"I'm looking forward to playing the lighter music and more marches," said McDonald. "I love to have all the people there. The kids come down and dance. They bring their snacks. It's a mini-Meadow Brook."

*Have an interesting idea for a story? Call arts reporter Linda Ann Chomik at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomik@oe.honcom.net*

**Jazz** from page C1

ld, Sarah Vaughn, Dizzy Gillespie and Stan Kenton.

Since forming his own quartet in the early 1980s, Nozoro's released several recordings. A guest appearance with the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra showcased Nozoro's seventh CD, *Warm*. The most recent, *Live at the Montreux-Detroit Jazz Festival*, was recorded last fall.

A strong believer in education, Nozoro has taught in the jazz

studies program at Wayne State University since 1982. If the art form is to continue to thrive young musicians must be inspired to carry on the tradition.

"Jazz has always somehow been able to survive but there's a lot left to be done in introducing it to the public," said Nozoro. "Baker's is active again. That's a nice sign. I think jazz comes with a struggle. There's a boom of jazz education in the schools. We

**'Jazz has always somehow been able to survive but there's a lot left to be done in introducing it to the public.'**

**Larry Nozoro**  
Musician

and you're not a stranger. That's the beauty of jazz. You become part of it."

The beauty of the Michigan Jazz Festival is that it's free. Ellis intends to keep it that way by holding brunches and concerts to raise the estimated \$30,000-35,000 to produce the festival.

"A new tent will house a third outdoor stage," said Ellis. "Last year at one of two indoor venues there wasn't enough seating so we're moving one of the indoor stages outdoors."

Volunteers will staff new information tents located in the parking lots.

"We'll have a lot more people walking around to help them," said Ellis. "As the festival grows, more people volunteer. If anyone wants to help us we welcome them with open arms. We'll need 40-60 volunteers to run the festival."

Nozoro's *Live at the Montreux-Detroit Jazz Festival* is available at *Harmony House* or from *Nozette Productions* for \$16. For a special deal on Nozoro's "Warm" CD e-mail him at [Inazero@ameritech.net](mailto:Inazero@ameritech.net).

always need to share the art form with the upcoming generation."

Sharing jazz is the main reason the Michigan Jazz Festival was founded. Held at the Botsford Inn in Farmington until last year, the day-long fest aims to expose listeners to a variety of styles from Big Band to straight ahead jazz.

"When the Botsford Inn closed last year we thought we'd come to a screeching halt, but at Schoolcraft last July everybody loved it because there's so much more room," said Midge Ellis, the Livonia resident instrumentalist in so many of the jazz happenings in the area.

"It's a better venue. Every year it gains. There's such a camaraderie between jazz musicians as well as the audience. You can walk into a jazz venue anywhere

**Get up and dance**

Ginny McDonald enjoys watching the audience watch the band. A Livonia clarinetist, McDonald joined the community band 13 years ago to put her

**West Bloomfield fest showcases 200 artists**

BY LENA KHIZOUZ  
SPECIAL WRITER

More than 55,000 people are expected to attend the sixth annual West Bloomfield Art Festival, held June 10-11 on the grounds of the Henry Ford Medical Center on Maple Road near Halsted.

"These are nationally recognized artists who present exceptional work, and our community expects and deserves exceptional quality art," said Betty Schneider, executive director of the West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce.

Part of the proceeds from the festival benefit the chamber.

**What:** Sixth Annual West Bloomfield Art Festival  
**When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, June 10-11  
**Where:** Henry Ford Medical Center, 6777 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield  
**Admission:** Free. For information, call (248) 626-3636

Visitors will find works created by more than 200 artists, most of whom will be on hand to explain their artistry.

The festival has been ranked among the top 100 outdoor art fairs in the country by *Sunshine Artist*. The ranking is based on attendance, sales and hospitality to artists.

"Anybody can walk into an art museum and see a painting on a wall, but you don't always get to see the artist," said Larissa Sekela, communications director for Howard Alan Events, Ltd., which coordinates the festival with the chamber.

Local artists in the art festival include:

- Photographer Robert Bartley and watercolor painter Kathy Phillips of West Bloomfield.
- Jewelry sculptor Marilyn Joy of Birmingham.
- Ceramicist Gail Hiller of Beverly Hills.

Hiller participates in about a dozen art festivals a year. "I enjoy doing it because it expresses my creativity, and I can bring a lot of messages into the world," she said.

Patrons can also enjoy an array of international foods. Nationally known, Florida-based musicians Steve Mikes, who plays sitar, Doug Walker, steel drummer, and Kayto Wolf, keyboardist/singer, will entertain guests at the fair.

Children can be artists for a day by painting sand dollars and taking them home. Patrons also can register for two art giveaways.

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