

## ART BEAT

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to Art Beat, Observer Newspapers, 66251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150, or fax them to (734) 591-7279.

## YOUTH AUDITIONS

Paper Bag Productions, in conjunction with the Livonia Mall, is holding auditions for ages 8-16 for "The Sound of Music" 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 16 and 4-8 p.m. Monday, June 18 in the community room at the mall, 29514 Seven Mile at Middlebelt.

The newly re-formed Livonia Youththeatre will present the musical Aug. 2-5.

Registration fee is \$30 for the first child in the family, \$10 for any other children. All who register will be cast. The audition is merely to determine level of talent. Auditioning youth are encouraged to sing whatever they think they sing best. There will also be cold readings from the script.

Rehearsals begin Monday, July 25 and are scheduled 1-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday for the Broadway cast, Tuesday and Thursday for the London cast.

For more information, call C.J. Nodus at (248) 476-8635 or (810) 344-7774.

## SUMMER DAYS

Marilyn Wolff's exhibition of summer porches and little boys playing in the woods continues through Saturday, June 30 at Framing Corner, 27825 Seven Mile, west of Inkster Road, Livonia.

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Wolff's 15 years of watercolor studies yield rich, vibrant works that make viewers long for the days of summer. Wolff's profession as a registered nurse at Providence Medical Center in Farmington Hills more than likely has influenced these sensitive and sentimental scenes. But see for yourself.

Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday, until 7 p.m. Thursday, and till 4 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call Ruth Yheon at (248) 777-1442.

## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Grab your camera and head out to any Metropark. You could be the one to take a winning photo in the first Metroparks Visitors Photo Contest.

New and old photographs can be entered in the categories of scenic/landscape, nature, activities/events, portrait/family, action/sports, and documentary/history. Photographs taken from 1942 through the contest deadline will be accepted. Unmounted prints in sizes 3 by 5 inches to 8 by 10 inches or 35mm slides will be accepted.

Entries must be postmarked by Nov. 1.

Winning photographs will be used on park brochures. First and second place winners will receive vehicle entry permits for 2002.

For more information, call the Metroparks at (800) 477-2757.

## OPENING RECEPTION

Nancy Walls Smith opens her one-woman show with a reception 2-4 p.m. Sunday, June 10, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction.

"Celebration of Color" features 35 watercolors. Walls Smith began painting five years ago after the death of her son Jason Alan Smith.

"I started painting just a few months after the death of my son," said Walls Smith, "and it has helped me in coping with this horrific loss in such a way that I find words inadequate to express my appreciation for this artistic gift I was, no doubt, born with."

"Celebration of Color" continues to Friday, July 5. For more information, call the arts council at (734) 416-4278.

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Livonia Arts Commission is looking for artists to exhibit in their fine arts gallery at the Livonia Civic Center Library in 2002.

Each month, the arts commission presents solo or group shows as part of their ongoing mission to bring the best in fine art to the city. Original paintings, drawings and three-dimensional work are all welcome and have been shown in the gallery since its inception.

For more information or to apply, call the city's community resources department at (734) 466-2536.

## TAKE TO THE ROAD!

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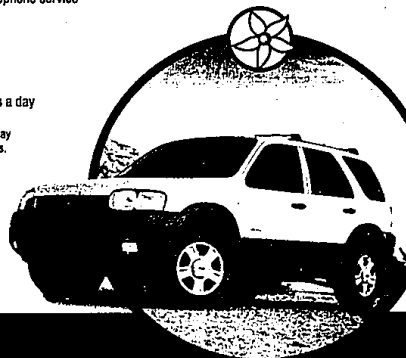
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toire and work ethic. I learned that researching and playing new tunes is important for a jazz musician. Learning was just not my job but my hobby, too. It's very important to bring new material to the group."

Keller describes the quartet as having a George Shearing sound with vibraphone by Kocher.

"We're fond of standards," said Keller. "We'll play a tune some-

body recognizes, then a tune nobody recognizes, and a few of the originals from our CD *Pipe and Slippers*."

"It's easy to listen to, but it would be wrong to call it easy listening music. It's full of challenges," added Kocher who also plays vibes with Los Gatos every Wednesday night at the Bird of Paradise in Ann Arbor. "But after about 22 years, Paul and I see eye to eye on a lot of stuff."

Including fatherhood. Like Keller, Kocher is looking forward to his first Father's Day.

"I'm the last guy in the group to join the daddy club and I love every second of it, changing every poopy diaper," said Kocher, a middle school music teacher in Ann Arbor. "It's a family affair and how appropriate that we have four families to bring together that day."

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