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HarborCountry<sup>SM</sup>

Chamber of Commerce  
Lodging Association

Connection  
the monthly newsletter



## Art Attack coming April 26-28

No matter what your hobbies, tastes or interests are, they are sure to be satisfied during southwest Michigan's ninth annual Harbor Country Art Attack, a weekend celebration of "All That Is Art," Friday through Sunday, April 26-28.

"What began as a chance to get together, have some fun and show off the diverse talents of our artistic community has grown into an exciting annual cultural event," said Rita Cochran, one of the organizers of the event. "Perhaps the two things that most set our Art Attack apart from other art exhibitions are the natural beauty of our Harbor Country setting and the degree of interaction between the artists and participants."

More than 35 special events are planned for the weekend. Just a few of the many highlights include a walk through a restored historic azalea nursery dotted with garden sculptures by several artists; a demonstration of growing, drying and making things from the fragrant lavender herb; a full course dinner followed by the screening Clio Awards-winning television commercials; a display of hand-blown and hot-formed sculptural glass; a sing-along performance by Harbor Country's Doc George whose repertoire of songs ranges from country to classical and rock to show tunes; a digital camera demonstration and discussion; and a lesson in "milk painting" furniture.

Special exhibitions and artists' receptions are held at galleries and establishments throughout the area. Most of the work is on display throughout the weekend. Opportunities to meet the artists and enjoy complimentary refreshments take place primarily during opening receptions from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 27.

The weekend also features the screening of Czech filmmaker Jan Svankmajer's "Little Otik" and a performance of the new sketch-comedy "Paper Monkeys," both at the restored Vickers Theatre in Three Oaks.

Art Attack is a self-guided tour of art. All Art Attack events are open to the public. Most are free or of minimal charge. A brochure with a map and the complete schedule of Art Attack events is available by calling the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce, 800-362-7251, or download the brochure from [www.harborcountry.org](http://www.harborcountry.org).



**COVER GUY-** The photography of Sawyer resident, Ray Reip (right), has been selected to grace the cover of the 2002 Harbor Country Chamber and Lodging Association Guide. The new guide, which will be unveiled on April 18, 6:30 p.m. at Miller's Restaurant, has generally featured paintings representative of the area. "I think the membership and the public will be pleasantly surprised by this photographic presentation of Harbor Country," said Chamber president A.J. Boggio (left) as he presented a check for \$500 to Reip for his effort. Reip has won numerous awards for his photography, but is positive that this is one of the biggest honors he has ever received.



### PUTTING PEOPLE ON THE STREETS

could be the bigger picture for the Sound Of Silents Film Festival, August 16, 2002. The 3-day silent film festival attracts over 1,000 people from a wide region including Chicago, Kalamazoo and South Bend. Jon Vickers, project director of Sound of Silents and owner of Vickers Theatre, feels that the festival is now being recognized nationally for its presentation of original musical scores set expressly for films shown here. This type of exposure requires more than a passing interest. Want to help? See page 3.



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email: hccc@triton.net  
website: www.harborcountry.org

## School plans to be in a class by itself

For the Karaitis family of Union Pier, MI, Saturday mornings over the past five years have been quite a learning experience. Up each week at 6:30 a.m., Gintaras, his wife Chris, their two boys Aras, 12 and Vytenis, 10 plus daughter Ava, 8, suppress their collective urge to become immersed in Saturday morning cartoons and focus their sole attention on the group's self-appointed mission to depart Harbor Country by 8:15 a.m. Upon reflection, Gintaras concedes there's a been a "few close calls" but by and large, everyone assembles, present and accounted for, ready to hit the road on time.

After cruising nearly 90 minutes on I-94 headed towards Chicago's southwest suburbs, the weary quintet finds themselves transported to a restored monastery, prepared to reenter the world of 'Maironis,' the Lithuanian School of Lemont, IL.

For the next four hours, the Karaitis children and their classmates, take part in a cross-cultural journey to an old world European way of life. Attending one of the Midwest's only accredited all-Lithuanian learning centers isn't quite so "lengvai," or easy in English. Preschool thru high school instruction includes studying the world's oldest Indo-European language derived from Sanskrit still in existence, along with Lithuanian literature, history, geography, cultural arts and even an after school Lithuanian scouting program. Students, or "mokiniai," are taught by certified teachers; "mokytojai" and receive regular "namu darbai"; homework assignments. In addition to Aras, Vytenis and Ava, who all attend St. Mary's in New Buffalo, other children from River Valley High School in Three Oaks, and from Bridgman, Stevensville, St. Joseph, even as far away as Kalamazoo, all routinely make

the Saturday morning road trip to Maironis.

Reconnecting with their Baltic heritage is not a foreign experience for second and third generation Lithuanian families in southwest Michigan. In fact, the Lithuanian community has been calling Harbor Country home as far back as the early 1900s. Coupled with Chicago's large Lithuanian population, Harbor Country has historically attracted annual scores of Lithuanian summer vacationers to the intoxicating beaches of Lake Michigan. Many of their modern day descendants continue to live and work here today. Milda Rudaitis, originally from Chicago, had been visiting Harbor Country as far back as she can remember with her parents and relatives.

Now, nearly 30 years later, she is the first member of her family to own and operate a Harbor Country business; Milda's Corner Market on Townline Road in Union Pier, MI. In addition to creating her own homemade gourmet creations, both American and Lithuanian, for her deli, grocery store and catering clients, Milda holds a teaching certificate as a licensed Lithuanian instructor and currently conducts private Lithuanian tutoring lessons for nearby school age kids.

"Parents have been asking me to tutor ever since I've been out here," she mentions matter-of-factly. Consequently, she and several members of the Union Pier Lithuanian Association are exploring the possibility of establishing a local all-Lithuanian Saturday School, much like Maironis, in the Michiana area. Milda acknowledges "there's more kids in the area" and "a larger need for it." According to Rudaitis, except for Detroit, no other Lithuanian school exists in Michigan. If the Karaitis' and others, who commute

See **SCHOOL** page 3

### Harbor Country Connection

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## Listing your web site on Search Engines

Your web site will not receive very much traffic if it's not listed on the Internet Search Engines. Unlike banner ads that you can buy to bring temporary traffic, Search Engines are constant online web directories that web surfers use to find other sites. To get listed, you can either pay a online service to do this for you or go to these Engines and do it yourself.

Just a few years ago nearly all the Engines offered free listings. That's all changing. Nearly all the top Engines charge fees to have your site listed... a sign of the economic times.

You can go to one Engine that can populate your site to all the other major engines for a one-time fee of \$299 (ouch!) Once you come out of the coma and back to your senses, you'll realize there's little other choice these days. The site for this service is LookSmart.com - a well known and respected web portal.

Of course, there are many less known Engines that are still free, but you have to hunt for them. The best way is go to any

Engine, like AltaVista.com and type the search words "Search Engines". You'll get a lot of independent sites that post lists of the major Engines, and many lessER known, moderately popular ones.

You must continually repost your site to these engines (with the exception of LookSmart), otherwise your listing becomes obsolete and your site loses visibility. Engines deliberately drop sites that do not have any updates within 1 to 2 years. This practice weeds out sites that have gone dead or old unrevised content. So don't rest on your laurels once you're listed on the Engines. The Internet is interactive, and it's culture is becoming less tolerant of inactivity. So, stay online, stay active, and stay informed. Your Internet success depends on it!

**new  
members  
march  
2002**

## Lodging offers Chicago Trib/ Travel Michigan tie-in for Spring

The Chicago Tribune has developed an offer to tie in with the State of Michigan's advertising in the Tribune this spring. Travel Michigan will be advertising in the Sunday Travel Section on May 5, 12, 29 and June 2, 9 and 23. Michigan advertisers wishing to advertise in those issues can do so at a reduced black and white rate of \$354 per column inch (pci), versus the open rate of \$422 pci. However, the ad will not appear on the same page as the Travel Michigan's ad, per the state's request. Also, for an additional \$230 your ad also will appear on the Trib's web site that same day.

The Trib is also putting together separate Michigan color advertising pages that will run May 5 and June 2 on the page facing the Travel Michigan ad. The Tribune is picking up the color cost. Rates for ads on these pages (2 column by 2 inch minimum) are \$335 pci if you run one time and \$322 pci if you run your ad on both May 5 and June 2. These advertising pages also will appear on the Trib's web site on that date at no additional charge.

Space reservation deadlines are April 22 at noon and May 20. Material deadlines are April 25 and May 23.

If you would like to take advantage of these opportunities or want additional information, contact Ileen Kelly at 312-222-4008.

## SCHOOL From Page 2

weekly to Maironis in Illinois, factor in their drive time with their children's class time, it can add up to a lot of missed cartoons. Although Milda and the other 90 active members of her group currently lack their own educational facility or funding, a recent letter and questionnaire mailed to members from the association's Board believed there were "adequate resources, both human and financial, in our community to make this idea a reality."

Hopes are for school to start this fall, if not next September. Learning and teaching closer to home while carrying on the Lithuanian culture for the next generation of Saturday morning cartoon watchers is a major undertaking, but Milda freely admits having a school here would sure make life easier.

*A Little Bit O'Heaven*  
15060 First Road  
Lakeside, MI 49116  
773-445-4465  
Rita McGarry  
Vacation Rental

*Unionpiergetaway.com*  
16080 Kissman Drive  
Union Pier, MI 49129  
219-635-2124  
Ray Hofecker  
Vacation Rental

*Inhabit*  
15980 Red Arrow Highway  
Union Pier, MI 49129  
616-469-7713  
Michelle Gazzalo  
Retail Clothing

*Clover Creek Cottages*  
102 E. Clay Street  
New Buffalo, MI 49117  
616-469-6939

*Bill & Rebecca Conway*  
Vacation Rental

*Quality Decorating Plus*  
102 E. Clay Street  
New Buffalo, MI 49117  
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*Bill & Rebecca Conway*  
Painting

*Ipsa Facto*  
1 W. Ash Street  
Three Oaks, MI 49128  
616-756-3404  
Brandon Nelson  
Antiques

*St. Mary of the Lake School*  
704 W. Merchant Street  
New Buffalo, MI 49117  
616-469-1515  
Judy Kruger, Principal  
Private School

*Steamers*  
21 W. Ash Street  
Three Oaks, MI 49128  
616-756-2333  
Mike Spencer & Traci Covert  
Restaurant

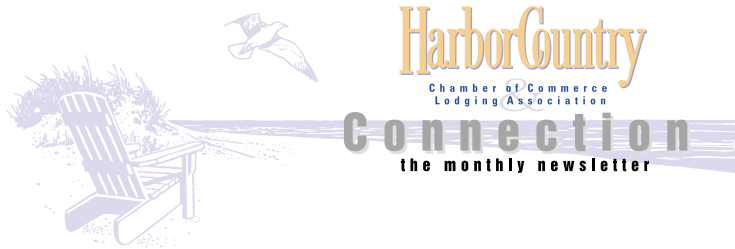
*Three Oaks Ford*  
6736 W. U.S. 12  
Three Oaks, MI 49128  
616-756-2081  
Dean Vander Woude  
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*Harbor Country Storage*  
19601 U.S. 12  
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10234 Community Hall Road  
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## Film Festival seeks supporters

Culture is alive and well in Harbor Country, especially in Three Oaks. As the Sound of Silents Film Festival gears up for its annual presentation (August 16), area businesses might want to show their support for this type of draw to the area through a generous donation. Project director, Jon Vickers, is seeking \$3,500 in private donations to help defray \$20,000 in expenses. Some expense is already covered by in-kind donations, but as the festival grows, resource needs grow as well. Vickers has also made applications for various grants. If you'd like to help call Harbor Arts, 616-756-3522.



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**all that  
 is art**

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**GOING, GOING, GONE!** Bill Ross (left) assisted auctioneer Dave Becker at the recently held Three Oaks Business Association Annual Auction. The event, held March 18, at the St. Mary Church Hall, helped raise almost \$1,200 for TOBA's promotional efforts. Auction-goers walked away with bargains galore including meal deals, oil changes and other offerings from local businesses.

**d o i t**

**APRIL 18- 2002 Guide Unveiling** The annual party that is the culmination of a lot of hard work by Tim Rogers of Fusion Design Group, guide chairman Roger Harvey and a host of volunteers, starts at 6:30 p.m. at Miller's Restaurant in Union Pier. Capture your first bundle of guides for immediate distribution, mingle with business friends before the season hits hard, and purchase a signed artist print of the cover to add to your collection.

**APRIL 26-28- Ninth Annual Art Attack.** An eclectic celebration of "all that is art" throughout Harbor Country. Area galleries, inns, antique and specialty shops join to present art workshops, lectures, demonstrations, artists' receptions and entertainment.

**MAY 3-5-** Blossomtime Festival and Carnival, St. Joseph. Celebrate spring with blossoming trees and the culmination of area queen pageants.