



# VILLAGE NEWS AND VIEWS

Volume 48 Issue 6

Village of Decorative Painters

Southeastern Michigan

November/December 2025

Web page <https://villagepainters.net>

## Village of Decorative Painters 2025 Board

### **President**

Diane Stiller  
313-720-1836  
[dianestiller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dianestiller@sbcglobal.net)

### **Vice President**

Nancy Silver  
H 248-478-2537  
C 248-444-9983  
[nsliv@aol.com](mailto:nsliv@aol.com)

### **Secretary**

Linda Christopher  
734-718-3745  
[lindachristopher60@gmail.com](mailto:lindachristopher60@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer**

Kathy Fischer  
734-649-3262  
[fischerk@umich.edu](mailto:fischerk@umich.edu)

Joan Mueller  
248-349-5889  
[joankmueller@yahoo.com](mailto:joankmueller@yahoo.com)

### **Newsletter Editor**

Linda Morgan  
734-765-5735  
[morganlj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:morganlj@sbcglobal.net)

### **Membership**

Pat Butler  
734-944-1918  
[patbutler9@gmail.com](mailto:patbutler9@gmail.com)

## *President - Diane Stiller*

Hope to see you at the Holiday Luncheon that Eileen Carroll, Sam Farah, Kathy Ziemba, and Paula Atkinson have been busy working on. A gathering of friends is always a nice way to end the year. It will be held at a new venue and is sure to be a beautiful event; don't miss it!

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who served on the Board, a committee, or volunteered to help in some way this year. We always manage to get a lot done but it wouldn't happen without YOU!



# 2025 Calendar of Events

Dec 4            Holiday luncheon

# 2026 Calendar of Events

Feb 7            Judy Ribitch, meeting activity  
May 23, 24      Holly Hanley  
June 27, 28      Paulette DiGesare  
Sept 25-27      Fall Retreat, It's A Colorful World  
Dec 3            Holiday luncheon



**I PAINTED MY TRUMPET, AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRA WERE FREAKING OUT THAT I, WELL, THAT I...**



**BLUE MY OWN HORN.**

## 2026 Member Meetings

### Livonia Senior Wellness Center

Saturdays, 10 am —2 pm

February 7, April 4, June 6,

August 1, Oct 3

### Board Meetings 2026

**6:30 pm Thursday by ZOOM**

Jan 8, March 5, May 7,

July 2 if needed, Sept 3, Nov 5



Did you hear about the man who stole all those paintings?

He tried to brush it off, but I think he got framed.



*Please remember to take your pence*

Thank  
you

To the members who  
volunteered for the  
2026 board

## VDP Board Positions 2026

### Officers

President - Diane Stiller

Vice President - Nancy Silver (in spirit)

Treasurer - Kathy Fischer/Joan Mueller

Secretary - Linda Christopher

### Elected Positions

Education—Diane Stiller

Library—Teresa Palmer

Membership—Pat Butler

Newsletter - Linda Morgan

Spring Fling—Diane Stiller

Website Administrator—Michelle Handley

### Appointed Positions

Audit—Cathy Uhring

Fall Retreat—Paula Atkinson

Holiday Party—Linda Christopher & Linda Morgan

Hospitality - Dawn Billiau

LSC Liaison—Margaret Pedersen

Memory Boxes - Cindy Mullins

Pence—Margaret Pedersen

Picnic—Karen Capshaw

Sunshine - Connie Vasilnek

Treasure Boxes - Cindy Mullins



## November Birthdays

1 Sue Drobyshewski

13 Nanci Hansen

29 Maryann Muir

## December Birthdays

5 Kathy Ziemba

6 Karen Lavella

19 Linda Morgan

20 Linda LaRocco

27 Susan Rhodes

28 Patty Neu

30 Cathy Uhring

31 Judy Ribitch



Rondi delivered 23 Memory  
Boxes to Corewell Hospital

## *Livonia Senior Wellness Center*

Well Ladies, it is finally happening! We will no longer be meeting at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center located on Farmington Rd. just south of 5 Mile Rd. Karl Peters, the Program Supervisor, took Linda Christopher, Linda Morgan, and I on a tour of the new facility on October 22. Their new move date is November 17 though there is still a lot of work to do. However, whether they meet that deadline or not, we will have our February 7, 2026 Member meeting at the new location.

**Where is it?** The Livonia Senior Wellness Center is built on to the east side of the Livonia Parks & Recreation Building located at 15100 Hubbard Street in Livonia. It is between Farmington Rd. and Merriman; closer to Merriman. Those who attend activities/classes at the Parks & Recreation Building use Hubbard St. to enter the parking lot in the rear of the building. Only recreation members can enter the building through those back doors.

**Members of Village of Decorative Painters will enter the parking lot off of 5 Mile Rd.** This parking lot is specifically for use by those entering the Senior Wellness Center. In the picture below, the doors are to the left where the two awnings are. You can see handicapped parking signs on the right and there are more handicapped spaces on the left (east) side of the building. General parking is on the left side of the building and there are more spaces than at the old building.



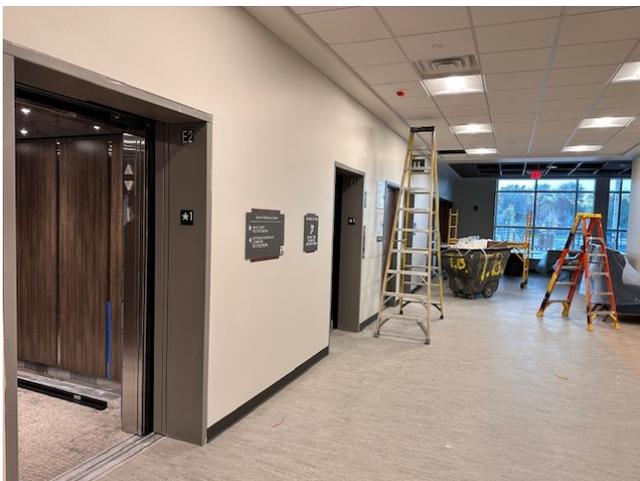
**Creativity is intelligence having fun. — Albert Einstein**



This is the east side of the Senior Wellness Center and you can see handicapped parking. In front of the grass in the foreground is the start of general parking.

When you enter the building, someone will be at the front desk to direct people. You go down the corridor on the right and then turn left for the elevators. Our room is on the second floor right by the elevators.

All the chairs and tables are light and on wheels. The new tables measure 5 feet wide and 2 feet in depth. The chairs have arms that fold up/down. We will have to see if we can fit 2 people to one table. The chairs and tables will be in the room and set up classroom style. We can easily move them to reconfigure the room for our needs for meetings or classes.



The elevators are quite large. We can bring our wagons and can also use the carts from their dining room.



The room looks to be at least as large as the Activity room. Where you see the door to the far left, the room can be divided so the smaller space will be used for when the tests that are administered during several months can be held; which usually meant that we couldn't use the Activity room at all at the old building.

The room is carpeted and well lit. There is only one window to the far right which is built high up the wall. There will be two TV's mounted on the wall to the right. We should still be able to use the movie screen.



This shows the built-in counter that we can place food on. There is a sink. The bathrooms are near the room.

## Education – Diane Stiller

We had a fun time on Zoom with Lydia Steeves using color pencils and pan pastels to paint our chipmunk and mice. Lydia is a very personable instructor and paces the class well in order to finish the piece.



### *Coming Up Next in 2026*

February 7	Judy Ribitch: Hello Winter	Onsite
May 23 & 24	Holly Hanley	Onsite
June 27 & 28	Paulette DiGesares:	Onsite and Zoom

Thirty-two members have registered for Hello Winter by Judy Ribitch. The surfaces have been ordered and can be picked up at the Holiday luncheon on December 4 so that prep work can be done before class. I will email a reminder to those who signed up a week before the Holiday luncheon with the address.

The Education Committee will meet sometime in late January to select Holly Hanley and Paulette DiGesare projects for members to vote on at the February Member meeting. I will email members of the Education Committee in early January with some dates and times for the meeting.

## Could You Use a Bit of Sunshine? – Diane Stiller

Four of our members passed away this year: Nancy Forbes, Louise Brown, Nancy Silver, and Janis Creswell. Charlene Wenzel has been placed in hospice. At our October Member meeting, the last of the year, we held our own memorial and have decided to continue this practice each October for those members who have passed away from one October to the next.

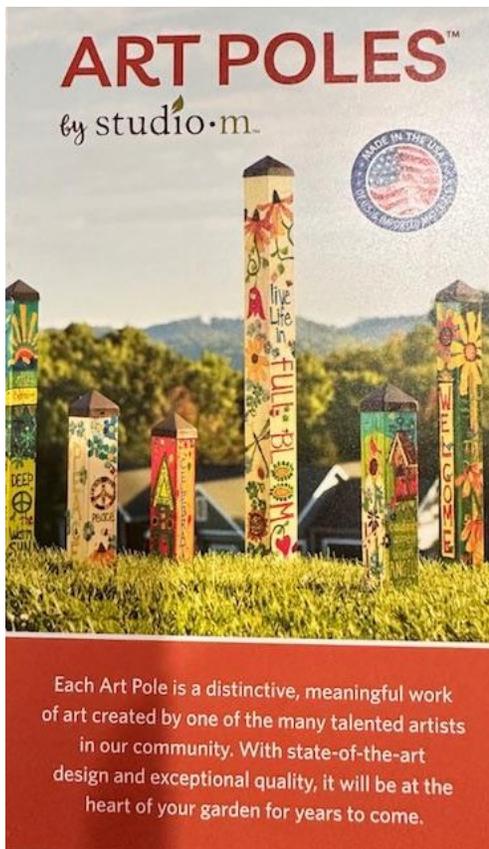
Many of our members are hurting right now. They are coping with serious illnesses either themselves or family members. Some have lost loved ones and dear friends during the year. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Take the time to reach out to them with a phone call, a text, or a card.

Please let Connie Vasilnek know as Sunshine Chair so she can send a card on behalf of VDP. If anyone would like to share some news with the rest of the members, please send Diane Stiller an email that she can pass on. In order to share news in a more timely manner, Diane will email everyone at the beginning of each month as a reminder to let us know if anyone could use our thoughts and prayers.

## Art Poles – Diane Stiller

Some of our members like to paint peace poles. I thought that you might be interested in this art pole.

I purchased this 4-sided memorial pole from Art Pole by Studio\*m. It's a nice remembrance to place in the garden.



## Grosse Ile Glass Tile Installation on Macomb St. – Diane Stiller



A number of our members registered for a glass fusion class at Brush Benders.

I thought you might be interested to see this very large glass tile installation. Many people created tiles for this art endeavor. The cat on the left was done by a little girl to represent the TAILS cat shelter on the island.

It might serve as inspiration for a project you could create!



## **Caramelized Onion and Brie Dip**

Shared by Dawn Billiau

### **Ingredients**

3 T unsalted butter (or bacon grease per Dawn)

2 onions, thinly sliced

2 t fresh thyme leaves

¼ t pepper

8 oz Brie cheese, thinly sliced

1/2 C Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, shredded

Fresh vegetables or crackers to serve

### **Directions**

In a large skillet over medium high heat, add butter. Once melted, add onions and cook until caramelized, about 15 – 20 minutes. Place in an overproof serving dish.

Heat broiler to high.

Sprinkle thyme and pepper over onions, then add brie and parmesan cheeses.

Place under broiler until bubbling and golden brown.

## In Memory of: Nancy Forbes, Louise Brown, and Nancy Silver – Diane Stiller



We lost three members this year; they were dear friends to many of us and we feel their loss. A table was set up and cut-out flowers and hearts were available for members to share their memories and these will be given to their families.

Diane shared her memories of each member and then opened the floor for others to share theirs.

Barb Reinholz spoke at length about Nancy Forbes who was also a member of Heritage and others chimed in.

Nancy Thomson, Louise Brown's daughter, brought in three paintings; the one of the giraffes was the last one Louise painted. Pat Butler brought in two photos of Louise painting a birdbath on the wall of the NICU at Providence Hospital. Nancy shared some memories of her mother and other members joined in. Louise's memorial will be held on October 18. Nancy said that Louise requested that no one wear black; just bright colors.

Pat Butler, Joan Mueller, Barb Reinholz, Karen Capshaw, and Jan Kaplan brought in their paintings that Nancy Silver taught. Dawn Billiau brought in the last painting that Nancy Silver painted; it was the watercolor turtle with David Bailey just this past August. Nancy did a fantastic job as VP for the last several years and filled in wherever she was needed. Many members shared their memories of her. Nancy Silver will continue to serve in spirit as our 2026 Vice President.

### Save the Date



## “It’s a Colorful World”

September 25, 26, 27, 2026

Bring your paint and join us for the  
9th Biannual Village of Decorative  
Painter’s Fall Retreat.

Registration forms will be available  
at the February meeting.

## After-Meeting Activity: Diamond Dots with Cindy Mullins



Display of completed patterns by Cindy Mullins and her Mom

### Pence Raffle



9 items were raffled that brought in 112 pence. Margaret Pedersen sold \$30 in tickets.

*Scrapbook Memories*  
October 4, 2025 Member Meeting  
Show & Tell



Michelle Handley



Kathy Ziembra



Karen Capshaw



Dawn Billiau



Darlene Greenwood



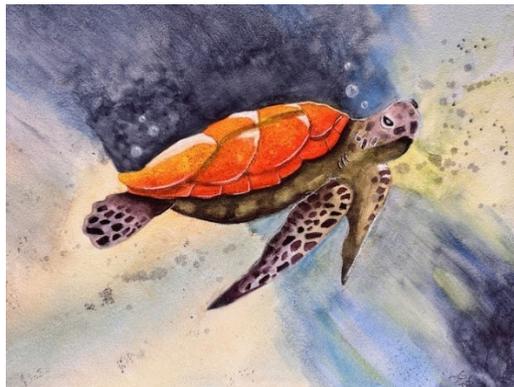
Connie Vasilnek



Karen Lavella



Diamond Art

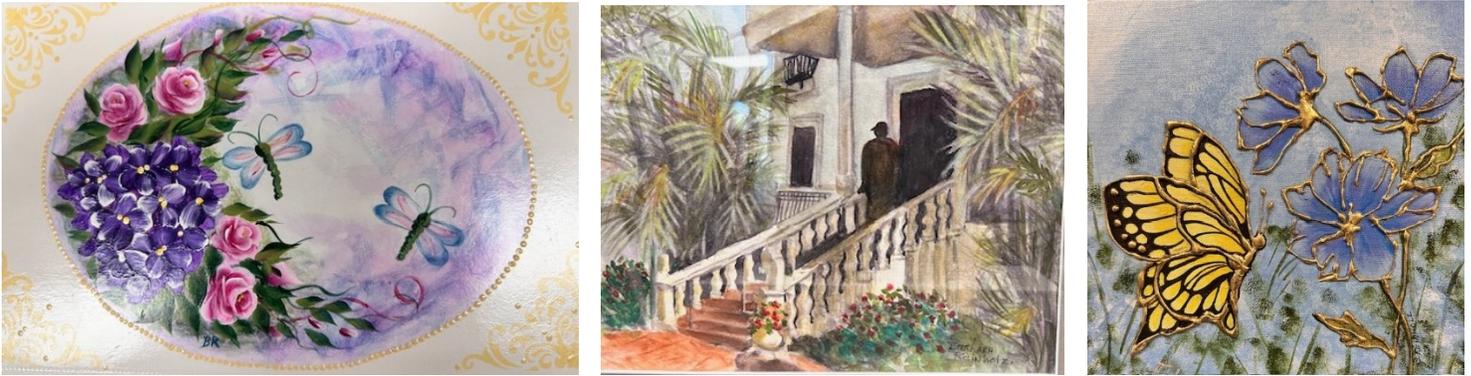


< Diane Stiller >





< Patty Neu Notecards >



< Barb Reinholz >



Barb Reinholz



First Place Winner at 2025 OK Palooza: Centerpiece by Sam Farah. Mushrooms by Kim Eash  
Placemats by Judy Ribitch, Sam Farah, Kim Eash, Mary Jane Wells, & Diane Stiller

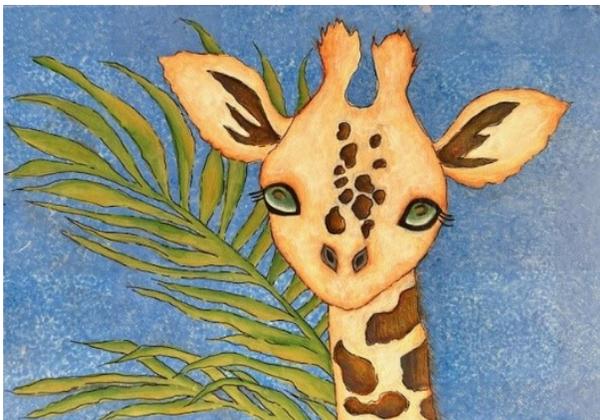


Denise Robert

## Memory Boxes



## Treasure Boxes



# Village of Decorative Painters Frosty Friends Christmas Luncheon



Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025 12-4 PM  
St. Mary's Cultural Center  
18100 Merriman Road, Livonia MI 48152  
Just north of 6 Mile, our entrance  
is the burgundy awning around the back.

\$30 for Members - \$35 for Guests  
Registration deadline November 20, 2025

Family Style Luncheon includes:  
Chicken Supreme, Mostaccioli with Marinara  
Sauce, Garden Salad, Bread and Butter,  
Relish Tray, Roasted Potatoes,  
Green Beans, Dessert, Coffee, Tea, Soft  
Drinks, Water.  
Vegan or Gluten Free, circle option below.

Kathy and Pat will be collecting donations in the parking lot near the  
burgundy awning for Toys for Tots, Little Free Library, Non-Perishable Food  
Items and Cash Donations for the Salvation Army.  
Memory Boxes and Treasure Boxes will be displayed and accepted inside.

We will have our Handpainted Christmas Ornament Exchange, Pence Raffle  
(extra tickets will be available for \$1 each), and the Centerpiece Drawing.

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Village of Decorative Painters Frosty Friends Christmas Luncheon Registration Form

\$30 Members - \$35 Guests

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the First Name you wish to appear on your name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Vegan

Gluten Free

Make check payable to : Village of Decorative Painters.

Mail to Margrette Farah, 38147 Huron Pointe Drive, Harrison Twp, Mi 48045

Questions? Call or text Sam 586-996-6476, Eileen 586-419-7921, Kathy 248-953-3180  
or Paula 248-798-5312



# Village of Decorative Painters

## Membership Application for January 1 – December 31, 2026

Please check the appropriate box: [ ] New Application [ ] Renewal

Renewing member: Use \* to indicate any information that has changed from last year.

Annual dues for Village of Decorative Painters (VDP) are \$15.00, due no later than December 31, 2025

Make check payable to: Village of Decorative Painters

Send application and check for membership to: Pat Butler, 7870 Parker Rd, Saline, MI 48176

### Please Print

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Health Advisory

Village of Decorative Painters (VDP) hereby gives notice that various paints, finishes and solvents will be used during meetings and seminars. Each participant is responsible for assessing their own potential risk of exposure to these products and their components before electing to participate in any event. Village of Decorative Painters, its teachers, and agents assume no liability for the participant's use or exposure to these paints, finishes and solvents, the same to be specifically assumed by the participant.

My signature on this application signifies that in accepting membership, I ratify, accept and agree to abide by the By-laws, Operations Manual, Health Advisory and any other governing documents of the Village of Decorative Painters.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Form received by VDP Membership Chair, Pat Butler, on \_\_\_\_\_