

Venetian Night in Cedar Lake was a huge success.

While some of the entries had problems getting lit others did not. Most of the boaters knew that **John Schutz** from Center Garage had a great time.

... Mayor **Dan Klein** announced that new residents to the city will be given information welcome packets with vital city info.

... Wondering what all the Indianapolis surveyors are doing all over town?

Mayor Klein has hired Schneider Corporation out of Indianapolis to do the

Kitty Conley's

Scratching Post

engineering for new waterlines along Greenwood Avenue and Court Street.

They brought along in-house surveyors.

I wonder why local surveyors weren't used, instead of paying travel time, gas mileage and possibly for hotel stays.

... Did you know that a representative of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is no longer in Lake County?

Apparently the Lake

County Soil and Water Conservation District is to only handle agriculture matters after 60 years of looking after that, as well as stormwater runoff associated with construction activity, and what is done to Lake Michigan by industry.

... The Crown Point 8-and-under softball team won a state title. Congrats to **Ashley Cunningham, Miranda Elish, Rachael Honaker, Bobbie Sue McDaniel, Bailey Mores, Sydney Morrow, Brittany Robinson, Jordan Smith, Rachael Suits, Sarah Tiernan, Hanna Van Prooyen and Brittany Wright.**

Eye on Art I Sam Dalkilic

Make art a part of daily life

When I was initially approached regarding doing an art column for the Star, I was both thrilled and terrified. Thrilled because I love art. It has been an integral part of my life. Terrified as I have never written a column and I suddenly remembered my high school English teacher who gave me an "F."

One other thought crossed my mind, how could my name fit on a column in the newspaper? Thanks to my parents, my name is probably the longest in the state of Indiana; my complete name is Samantha P.J. Emel Dalkilic-Miestowski. Please, just call me Sam.

This column will cover many aspects of art including artists, collectors, galleries, students, schools, techniques, framing, books, interviews and anything else that might be of interest to readers.

This first column is designed to give you information about my gallery, The Steeple Gallery, Ltd., located in St. John, and me.

I am a native Texan who moved to Crown Point while in grade school. I graduated from Merrillville High School and received a bachelor of fine arts from Ball State University with a specialty in sculpture. I was the only art major in the ROTC program at Ball State, and I think I was the first female art major who got her "jump wings" from Ft. Benning, Ga.

While in college, I interned in Chicago with John David Mooney who is an internationally recognized artist.

After college, I was fortunate

to travel and assist in opening galleries in Europe and one of my photos was published in an art book. A little later, I was among an international group of artists selected to tour Poland. One of my fondest memories is the months I spent in Provence in southern France studying art. Our school was housed in a town several hundred years old under the castle of the Marquis de Sade.

Enough about myself, let's talk about the gallery. The gallery was an operating Central Assembly of God Church when it was acquired. Records indicate the church was built in the 1950s. The church was totally renovated both inside and outside, including the landscaping, by me and my family.

Though difficult to find the first time, the gallery is truly nestled in a naturally wooded area with wildlife very close by. Squirrels, muskrats, deer, snakes, birds, frogs and an occasional bat have found their way into or around the gallery.

The gallery has original fine art by artists both local and national. The 4,000-square-foot gallery houses watercolors, oils, engravings, lithographs, prints, glass art, sculpture, woodcuts, acrylics and weavings (current show). Custom framing and commissioned art pieces are a specialty of the gallery.

The gallery has the largest inventory of antique prints in Northwest Indiana. These include botanicals, animals, bird and fruits. The custom

framing offered by the gallery can make the difference between a masterpiece and an average piece.

The gallery space can be leased for private functions such as corporate events/meetings, special celebrations, fund-raisers and even small weddings.

The gallery welcomes the beginning art buyer as well as the experienced art collector.

Visitors to the gallery during the past several years have included children, truckers, professors, Harley riders, doctors, waitresses, teachers, Cub Scouts, seniors, art focus groups, high schools, elementary schools, tourists, dentists and people looking for Boric Religious Supply.

The gallery has on-going events and exhibits. Also, art classes are being offered for children and adults. Call (219) 365-1014 for more information.

In summary, the major milestones in my life include marriage, motherhood and opening The Steeple Gallery.

With the gallery's opening in 1999, I began my transformation from a naive artist to a businesswoman. It's been a wonderful journey, with many supporting people and groups.

The journey is more fascinating every day. I consider this column another milestone.

I'm thrilled and excited with the opportunity to make art a part of everybody's daily life.

Contact Sam at (219) 365-1014 or samowner@sbcglobe.net.

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Heidbreder sues Crown Point BZA

BY KITTY CONLEY

kconley@post-trib.com

CROWN POINT — Heidbreder, Inc. attorney Bruce Lambka filed suit Aug. 24 in Lake Superior Court against the Crown Point Board of Zoning Appeals.

The BZA, as the city's appeals board, refused to override an administrative decision to deny Heidbreder building per-

mits to construct a concrete plant in Millennium Industrial Park.

BZA member and former City Councilman Jim Wirtz expected that this suit would be filed. BZA President Vern Segert also knew going to court would be the next step.

Lambka said the BZA voted to recommend that the City Council grant a special-use permit to con-

struct and operate a redi-mix plant.

On April 4 the council approved the request.

Lambka said that on April 12 Mayor Dan Klein purportedly vetoed that resolution. The council was not able to override the veto. But the council never voted to deny the request.

On June 27 Heidbreder applied for a building permit and was denied.