

# The Daily Star



## DCHA to Host Art Exhibition

The Delaware County Historical Association will host a wine and cheese reception for the opening of of “Vignettes: David Byrd Paints Delaware County,” an exhibit of paintings by the late Sidney Center artist David Byrd at 4 p.m. Friday. Paintings displayed will include landscapes of Delaware County and vignettes of the people Byrd encountered during his weekly trips to the laundromat, grocery store, doctor’s office and gas station, according to a media release.

Byrd was born in Springfield, Illinois, in 1926. His father, who suffered from mental illness, left the family when Byrd was a young child, and his mother was forced by economic hardship to abandon him and his five siblings to foster homes, the release said.

At 17, he joined the Merchant Marines and traveled through Europe, the Mediterranean and Asia before being drafted into the U.S. Army as an artilleryman during World War II. After the war, he studied for two years at the Ozenfant School of Fine Arts in New York City.

In 1988, at age 62, he purchased 11 acres of land in Sidney Center. By 1994, he devoted himself full time to painting — largely from memory — the people, places and situations from his past, the release said.

A chance meeting with a neighbor in the fall of 2012 led to his first professional exhibition seven months later. Byrd died on May 30, 2013 ,at the New York Veterans Home in Oxford. For more information on Byrd and his art, visit [www.davidbyrdestate.com](http://www.davidbyrdestate.com)

The exhibit will remain on display in the Elijah Thomas Gallery at DCHA until Oct. 8. The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.