

# Post-Tribune

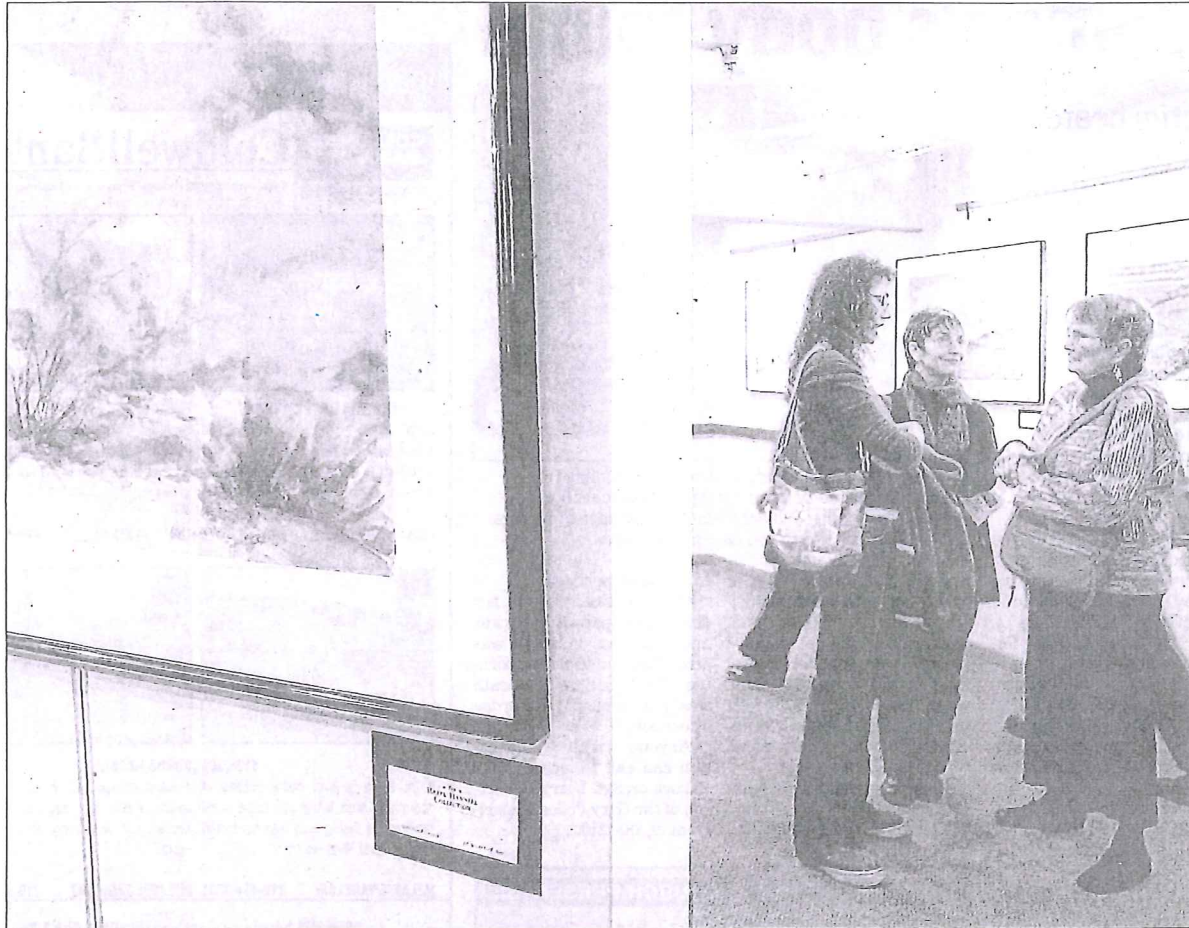
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NORTHWEST INDIANA'S WATCHDOG

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12

## IN NEIGHBORS COMMUNITIES



Art lovers: Nancy Husarik (from left), Kim Juhlin and Jean Juhlin, all of Valparaiso, visit the Hazel Hannell Collection of art at Pines Village Retirement Community in Valparaiso. | STEPHANIE DOWELL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

# Display honors local artist

## Hannell Collection will be housed at Pines Village

BY AMY LAVALLEY  
Post-Tribune correspondent

When Harriet Rex Smith was in high school, she visited the Furnessville studio Harriet Hannell shared with her husband, Vin.

"It was the first time I ever saw a whole house dedicated to art," Rex Smith recalled. "I was so impressed that art was something you could do all the time."

That impression was lifelong for Rex Smith, who became an artist and eventually moved from Porter County to Oregon. Her relation-

### IF YOU GO

The Hazel Hannell Collection is on display in the Village Gallery, which is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. For more information, call 465-1591 or visit the website [www.pinesvillage.org](http://www.pinesvillage.org).

ship with Hannell also was just starting; ultimately, Hannell, at age 92, left Porter County and joined her in Oregon.

Rex Smith recently shared details about Hannell's life during the unveiling of the Hazel Hannell Collection at Pines Village Retirement

Communities. Hannell died in 2002 at age 106 and painted until her death.

Besides watercolors, Hannell worked in pottery and did black-and-white prints of plant species. Her husband was a sculptor, and the two were early members of Save the Dunes, working to establish the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Through the years, Pines Village has acquired a number of Hannell's pieces, bequeathed to the agency by her friends who were residents there or their families, said Amy Page, public relations director for Pines Village.

Pines Village discovered that the Chesterton Art Center had about 22 of Hannell's watercolors — unframed — and approached the Art Center about acquiring the col-

lection. Gregg Hertzlieb, director and curator of the Brauer Museum of Art at Valparaiso University, oversaw the framing and preservation of the paintings through the work of several VU students. Some of Hannell's works are displayed at the university.

Hannell's work will remain in the Village gallery for several weeks, then will be moved to a different spot for permanent display at Pines Village. The gallery was installed two years ago after the agency underwent an extensive renovation. Hannell's works also are displayed in its conference room.

The work is a perfect fit for Pines Village.

"She exemplifies aging," Page said. "She painted until she was 106 years old and continued to contribute her artwork."