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## Art draws visitors to municipal building

By *DIANA BUBSER*  
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The Galleria Deptford art gallery, located in Deptford Township's municipal building, is guaranteed to catch the eye of busy residents looking to experience a dose of art and culture close to home.

"People come and pay taxes every day, and can't help but walk through the gallery," said Pauline Jonas, Deptford art curator. "I'm always pleased when I go over there and see someone lingering at the art."

The Living Arts Club is "dedicated to promoting the appreciation and enjoyment of the cultural arts," according to its official Web site. Sponsored by Deptford Township, it provides a variety of art shows, films and cultural trips to the public through the Galleria Deptford.

"All are open and (anyone) is welcome to partake in them as they wish," Jonas said.

The Galleria Deptford gallery, now in its sixth year of operation, displays two-dimensional art of all mediums, pottery, photography, sculptures, embroidery and calligraphy in its exhibits.

"We have a great variety of work," Jonas said.

The gallery rotates art every four to six weeks and presents work created by artists from all over New Jersey and Philadelphia. Currently, it is showcasing two-dimensional art and pottery. From Dec. 2 to Jan. 20, a photography show will spotlight, among others, Philadelphia photographer Don Brewer and a mother-daughter artist team, photographer mother Mary Waddington and sculptor daughter Debbie Smith. It will also feature the work of Alden Cole, an artist from Philadelphia who creates one-of-a-kind lamps out of recycled materials.

"We have no restriction on who shows with us," Jonas said. That includes age -- an exhibit displaying drawings from schoolchildren honoring Martin Luther King Jr. is slated to go up in January.

Future art shows through Mar. 31 will exhibit paintings, photography and calligraphy by local and regional artists.

During every show, the gallery hosts an artists' reception that community members are welcome to attend to meet the artists of the work showcased in the exhibits.

"It's a factor to appreciating the art, to meet the person who created it," Jonas said.

Every month, films about famous artists and sculptors are screened in the municipal building courtroom. The next film, "Picasso," will be shown on Dec. 8 at noon and 7 p.m. Biographies of sculptor Alberto Giacometti and pop artist Andy Warhol will be screened on Jan. 12 and March 9, and "Who Gets to Call It Art?," a documentary chronicling the 1960s New York art world, will be shown on Feb. 9.

In January, "we will show a travel film on China (made by) one of our photographers -- for Chinese New Year's," Jonas said.

There is no admission fee for the gallery or film screenings, but donations are always appreciated.

"(Donations) are what enable us to buy the new films," Jonas said. After films are shown, they are given to the Deptford library for public use.

Day trips to cultural venues organized by the Living Arts Club are also open to the public. An excursion to the Delaware Art Museum and Longwood Gardens will take place on Dec. 7, while trips to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the Pennsylvania Ballet are scheduled for January and March.

The Galleria Deptford art exhibit in the Deptford municipal building is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and artists' receptions are held on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. The gallery is located at 1011 Cooper St. in Deptford. For more information, call (856) 384-6582.

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