

# EASTSIDER

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Milan Szkipala, of Roseville, carves an eagle out of a tree on Aurora Street in Eastpointe last week. Szkipala has carved a number of different wooden statues throughout the Detroit area.

Photo by April Lehmbeck



## Roseville man turns saw into artist's tool

BY APRIL LEHMBECK  
C & G STAFF WRITER

A Roseville artist turns a tree into his canvas and a chain saw his brush to create pieces that make people stop and admire his work.

Last week, Milan E. Szkipala carved the remaining section of a tree in front of some apartment buildings on Aurora Street behind Eastpointe

City Hall into a large eagle. The 34-year-old Roseville resident grew up in Romania where he studied carpentry and woodcarving.

Many people who drove by couldn't help but slow down and stare out their windows and some even stopped to talk to Szkipala about his work.

"I got more attention here than

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## Roseville emphasizes importance of

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### Artist

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over there," he said comparing Eastpointe to the other cities he's worked like the Grosse Pointes.

"That surprised me," he added. "Everybody stops and asks questions. They like to see it. They say 'wow, that's nice.'"

Szkipala works with his partner Kenneth Boshell who call themselves "The Chainsaw Men of Michigan." They have carved faces, animal-life and other intricate designs all over the Detroit area. A Stanley Cup sits outside Szkipala's home.

The eagle on Aurora took him four days to complete, carving from what was a 50-60 foot tree. The owner of the apartments knew Szkipala and asked him to carve the trunk. Szkipala was planning to start a 6-foot statue of a fisherman for the apartments after finishing the eagle.

He carved the wings and head out of what were large branches. The eagle's body parts are carved with detailed designs that he makes using a number of different chain saws.

"If you know what you're doing, you know what you're doing. It doesn't matter if you're using a saw," Szkipala said. "You use different tools."

"It's kind of like a hobby, but it's kind of fun, too."

Their two-car garage is always busy. It's always full of wood. Szkipala can do anything. He can do larger pieces. He has a lot of equipment in his garage.

A lot of people come to see a special tree. It's a tree that's removed for a reason. It's a tree that's removed for a reason. It's a tree that's removed for a reason. It's a tree that's removed for a reason.

"After the tree is removed, we don't want to see it. We don't want to see it. We don't want to see it. We don't want to see it."

"We turn it into a new statue again."

He can do anything. He can do anything. He can do anything. He can do anything.

Szkipala has done various festival carvings.

"I'm an attraction. I'm an attraction. I'm an attraction. I'm an attraction."

For a large tree, Szkipala can do anything.