



### **Artist Brings Colorful Personality and Talent to Roosevelt in Old Bridge**

When Don Cousens retired from a plastic's company warehouse in 1979, he held fast to his dreams of lazy days and charting through the local golf courses. But Cousens' better half quickly laid those lackadaisical ambitions to waste, pointing him to the nearest easel, where his best strokes still remained undiscovered. "When I worked in plastics, I was the company's artistic director," he said. "So I would create the designs for containers...but when I retired, I always wanted to paint." A regimented visit to the canvas and one corresponding video course later and Cousens had clinched the title of certified instructor.

Along with his arsenal of equipment, the traveling teacher brings with him an over-the-top style, the perfect blend of flailing hands, colorful personality, a Cheshire grin and an affinity for one-on-one interaction.

For years now, he's been tapping into a raw talent, through both in his artistic and coaching abilities, becoming a sought-after regular in New Jersey's world of senior living. While many seniors face both physical and cognitive impairments, there's a sense of passion and accomplishment that's often revived with each new whisk of a paint brush. "I love doing it," he said. "It gives me so much joy to see the smiles on their faces."

In addition to Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge, Cousens frequents a number of regional communities as an expert oil painter, everywhere from Monmouth Crossings to Leisure Park.

For more details on Cousens' work and his U-Can-Do Oil Painting business, log onto [www.ucandooilpainting.com](http://www.ucandooilpainting.com), call 732-371-3722 or email [dcous1@comcast.net](mailto:dcous1@comcast.net).

