



Arts and events...

Children's Hospital & Medical Center and **Suburban Omaha Rotary Club** will present the fifth annual **Monster Mash Run/Walk** on Sunday, Oct. 22, at Rockbrook Village. In addition to the timed 5K run/walk and untimed 1-mile run/walk, participants will receive tours of Children's ambulance, interactive activities, face painting and music. Children ages 5-10 may participate in a 100-yard kid's dash. Halloween costumes are welcome, and prizes will be awarded. On-site registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The kid's dash begins at 10:45 a.m., with the 5K and 1-mile races kicking off at 11 a.m. Proceeds from **Monster Mash** benefit Children's **HEROES** childhood obesity treatment program.

Omaha Performing Arts is working with five new schools selected to participate in the 2017/2018 **Disney Musicals in Schools** program. They will join five other OPS schools in the initiative developed by Disney Theatrical Productions to create sustainable theater programs in under-resourced elementary schools. Elementary schools selected include: Plattsmouth Elementary, Plattsmouth; Douglas County West Elementary, Valley; Edison Elementary, Omaha; Loveland Elementary, Omaha; and Wake Robin Elementary, Bellevue. The schools will participate in a 17-week program, led by teaching artists at no cost. Each school will receive performance rights, education support materials and guidance from the teaching artists.

The Durlam Museum's 5th annual **Great Hall-oween Faunt** will be held October 24, from 5-8 p.m. Grab a **trick-or-treat** bag in the **Suzanne and Walter Scott Great Hall** and head out to find historical characters stationed throughout the museum handing out treats. Other activities include: **Creepy Curator**; **Tour the Haunted Train**; a **spooktacular science**

show; **The Swanson "Ghoulerly" carnival**; **spin art** with **Mangelsen's**; the **Soda Fountain**; and a **costume conga line** with a performance by the **University of Nebraska at Omaha's The Moving Company**. Regular museum admission applies.

The **Bemi Center** will hold its annual art auction on October 27. All auction proceeds support participating artists and raise critical funds for **Bemis Center** programs. Special to this year's event, the **Bemis** has partnered with **Maha Music Festival** to create an **After Party Concert** featuring **Cults with Closeness**. Tickets to the concert can be purchased with individual **Benefit Art Auction** tickets or separately. The auction will go from 5:30-9:30 p.m. and the doors for the concert will open at 9:30 p.m.

The **Omaha Parks & Recreation Department** is hosting several family-friendly October activities including: **Trunk or Treat** (October 21); **Halloween Spooktacular** (October 24 & 28) **Monstermash** (October 24); **Tiny Tot Halloween Party** (October 25); **Haunted Maze & Costume Contest** (October 26); **Halloween Family Swim** (October 27); **Ice Arena Halloween Skate & Boo Bash** (October 28). Some events may have a fee, up to \$5, but most are free. For more information visit parks.cityofomaha.org.

The **Omaha Storm Chasers'** annual **Baseball-oween** returns to **Werner Park** on October 27. The free event begins at 5:00 p.m. and will feature a **Fireworks Spook-tacular** at approximately 8:20 p.m. set to music from **Mannheim Steamroller**. Also highlighted is **Trick-or-Treating** on the ballpark concourse, a screening of **Monsters Inc.** on the videoboard, and much more. Food and drinks will be available for purchase during the event, with the **Storm Front Team Store** also open. Other

activities planned include: a magician; eye bowling; witch ring toss; bingo; Halloween corn hole; and a balloon artist.

Metropolitan Community College, AIT Worldwide Logistics, Metro and the **Old Market Business Association** have teamed up to host **Books Are Treats**, an event that will aim to give away more than 15,000 books to children. The event will take place on Oct. 29, from 1-4 p.m. in the **Old Market** at the corner of 11th and Harney streets. The general public is invited to browse the book selection in a library-like setting on a **Metro** bus. Guests may choose up to five books for free. Fiction and nonfiction books are available for all ages and reading levels.

The **Lincoln Boys Choir** will perform at its **Waffleman breakfast and fundraising auction** on Saturday, November 4, 2017. The event will be held from 8 a.m.-11 a.m. at the **Sesostri Shrine Center** in **Roca, Nebraska**. The online and live auction features a five-night stay at a **Colorado luxury retreat**. A variety of other auction items will be offered online prior to the breakfast at 32 auctions. com and as silent and live auction items during the breakfast. Tickets are \$7.

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium and **Wildlife Safari Park** will be hosting a **adult photography class** with nature photographer **Pat Mingarelli** October 26-28. Thursday, October 26 and Friday, October 27 will take place at **Omaha's Zoo and Aquarium** from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The workshop's final day will be held at the **Wildlife Safari Park** from 8:30 a.m.-noon. **Mingarelli** will instruct the photographers on how to take photos and will critique photos throughout the day to help students improve. The registration fee is \$70 for **Zoo and Aquarium** members and \$80 for non-members.



Creativity on display

Nebraska by Heart pieces find appropriate home in Aurora

Aurora has heart.

Two giant fiberglass hearts, actually, simultaneously reflecting the community's artistic flare and pieces linked to the state's sesquicentennial celebration.

Thanks to the imagination and quick thinking of Aurora's Tammy Morris, an effort to participate in the Nebraska by Heart auction caught fire just in the nick of time.

'Nebraska by Heart pieces now serve as a very appropriate addition to Aurora, a community with more than its share of artistic flare.'

As reported in this week's edition, Morris floated the idea of raising funds to purchase one of the unique art pieces to the Aurora Rotary Club, then expanded the reach to local foundations. This community has a long, proud history of getting behind good ideas, so it's not surprising that Morris had \$5,000 in her bidding budget in a very short time. As it turns out, that was enough to buy two heart-shaped pieces, which was an added bonus.

The more you think about it, these additions are just so incredibly appropriate for Aurora. This community

has more than its fair share of artists and creative thinkers, who share their talents in a variety of ways with the Art Walk and other local events. In terms of public art displays, however, Aurora's canvass was blank. Quite suddenly, we now have creative conversation pieces on public display for all to ponder, talk about and enjoy.

Located at the Rotary Park on the downtown square and in front of the Alice Farr Library along a busy Highway 14, the hearts are extremely visible and will no doubt stir conversation for years. It's fun to envision people of all ages examining the two hearts up close and personal, circling them, forming their own impressions, pausing if only briefly to tap into their own creative realm. Artwork invites that kind of subjective critiquing, which is a creative process in and of itself.

Our state has been celebrating its 150th birthday all year long with this unique art project serving as one of many candles on the cake. As the saying goes, Aurorans have been able to help eat the state's 150th birthday cake and now get to keep a couple colorful pieces, too. How cool is that.

Here's a tip of the hat to Tammy Morris, generous Rotarians and foundation board members for tapping into Aurora's heart and artistic flare!

Kurt Johnson



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Badura goes low at state meet -- B1



AURORA News-Register

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Hearts find home in Aurora

by Kurt Johnson

Two Nebraska by Heart pieces created as part of the state's sesquicentennial celebration are now on permanent display in Aurora.

The planning, purchase and placement of the large heart-shaped objects all came together rather quickly, after Tammy Morris realized the public auction of the artwork represented a unique opportunity.

"I was aware of the Nebraska by Heart project and as I got to thinking about it I thought Aurora needs to have at least one of those hearts," Morris explained. "We have the veterans' memorial here, which is beautiful, but we don't have a lot of public art. This was just a nice way to introduce our community to art."

Morris presented the idea to the Aurora Rotary Club, of which she is a member, and the momentum started building from there. She asked club members for donation pledges and reached out to local foundations as well, just days before the Oct. 6 public auction in Lincoln.

"I just started the conversation and Rotarians came to the plate and said 'Let's make it happen,'" she said.

(See **HEART**, A8)

HEART

(Continued from A1)

In a few days time Morris had \$5,000 in pledges from the Frank & Alice Farr Trust, Myrl and Bessie Evans Mather Foundation, Aurora Chamber Small Business Network, Aurora Screen Printing & Embroidery, Cornerstone Bank, Heritage Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Jim's U-Save Pharmacy, Morris Patent Law, Padgett Business Services and Wortman Enterprises.

Nebraska by Heart is a public art project sponsored by Lead Up (formerly Boys



Hope Girls Hope) and the Sadies Dog Fund, according to its website. It was endorsed by the Nebraska 150 Celebration as a component of the Nebraska Sesquicentennial and a destination for millions of appreciative Nebraska, national and international visitors.

With a budget of up to \$5,000 with which to

bid, Morris made a trip to Lincoln to look at all the

89 art pieces, which were on display before the auction at Haymarket Park. She sought input from Rotarians and decided on a short list of favorites, not knowing how high the bids would go on each piece.

"We picked pieces we thought were more symbolic of not only Nebraska, but maybe this part of Nebraska," she said. "We wanted something that would say community, something the community could embrace to make this a more beautiful place."

With the help of a proxy bidder, Morris was able to acquire not one but two pieces, both of which were on the short list of favorites.

One is a mosaic of small tile pieces by artist Beth Wells, assembled in a colorful pattern showing children linked hand in hand all the way around the 6-foot piece. The other is a piece by Allie Laing, depicting a map of the state with a combination of rural and city scenes. (See descriptions below from each artist.)

With two large pieces of art headed for Aurora, Morris said the conversation shifted to the most ideal locations.

"One of the first places Rotarians thought of, obviously, was Rotary Park down on the square," she said of the empty corner lot where the Fidelity Building once stood. "We thought that would be very visible and easy for people to enjoy."

The two other top choices came down to Cole Park and in front of the Alice Farr Library. A close vote by project donors gave a thumbs up to the library.

"The group talked about a location where it would be visible and safe and lit and the library stood out a little

bit more," Morris said. "They wanted it to go where people could enjoy it."

The Aurora City Council approved the placement on library grounds at last week's meeting and the Texas owners of the Fidelity Building lot endorsed the idea as well. On Monday morning, the pieces were delivered and installed.

All 89 of the heart pieces have the same structure, with a state of Nebraska-shaped baseboard supporting a fiberglass heart measuring approximately six tall. The base piece is connected securely to the ground to help stabilize and protect it from harsh Nebraska winds and weather.

About the pieces

Here is what Beth Wells wrote about her heart design.

"My inspiration for this is drawn from the fact that Nebraska is not just nice, it is the Good Life because we are people who respect one another. We embrace people of differing faiths, beliefs and cultures.

We understand and practice freedom daily through tolerance and love, recognizing that though many, we are one. The final heart art will be a mosaic. It represents the concept of how each individual and different tile is so much greater when joined by the other mosaic pieces to create a masterpiece."

Here is what Allie Laing said of her design:

"Some people grew up in small communities where they could circle their home town in five blocks. They road bikes to the grocery store and walked across the street to get to the city pool. Some lived on farms and were raised to take care

of crops and animals. Others grew up in big cities where they drove 30 minutes to get home by crossing bridges and passing downtown buildings. And if you're like me, you gee up praising Husker football and you couldn't find anyone not wearing red on a Saturday in fall. No matter which lifestyle we grew up with, we all have something in common -- we are Nebraska. This place is truly incredible, and I constantly find myself being more thankful for the sense of community I've found in this state.

When designing my proposal, I wanted to show that no matter what our backgrounds might be, we all hold Nebraska close to our hearts. Whether we're big city living or small town folks, we all belong to the state of the two-finger wave and the Cornhuskers. We're connected in more ways than one and I am so excited to share all of the amazing things that make up this state through this sculpture."

'We picked pieces we thought were more symbolic of not only Nebraska, but maybe this part of Nebraska. We wanted something that would say community, something the community could embrace to make this a more beautiful place.'

Tammy Morris



News-Register/Kurt Johnson

Tammy Morris stands by the newly installed Nebraska by Heart piece installed Monday at Rotary Park. Below, an installation crew places a second piece in front of the Alice Farr Library.



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DICTIONARIES - A ROTARY TRADITION



COURTESY PHOTO

Since 2005, the Glenwood Rotary Club has delivered 2,328 dictionaries to Mills County third graders as a gift for each to use either at school or at home for years to come. Recently 211 students at West, East Mills, and Fremont-Mills Elementary schools received a new dictionary from the club. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn. The Dictionary Project is the largest literacy project in Rotary. Its goal is to assist students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. Since 1995, over 7,000 Rotary clubs have donated more than 14 million dictionaries to students in the United States and around the world. Diane Enger's third grade class at West Elementary is shown here with Rotarians Stan Sibley, Rob Simmon, Erin Jones and Keith Johnson, project chairman.



OUR COMMUNITY

Candy Garey new Rotary member



Candy Garey was welcomed as the newest member of the Red Oak Rotary Club Sept 26. She lives in Villisca and has been office manager at Wilson Performing Arts for the last three years. She is a Sunday school teacher and formerly worked at CDS and the Red Oak chamber after her return from California. Pictured above, from left: Kara Sherman, executive director of Wilson Performing Arts, who sponsored Garey's membership, Candy Garey, Dr. Richard Trinity. Red Oak Rotary Club is a member of the Rotary International community service organization. Its motto is "Service Above Self." (submitted photo)



The Red Oak Express held its annual Barb Gray Chili Cook-Off at the Red Oak Fire Station Friday evening. Turnout was approximately double that of a year ago. The annual event is a fundraiser for a community event or organization, and this year more than \$1,500 was raised for renovations at The Grand Theatre. Above left,



Red Oak Express Chili Cook-Off Winners



from left, are the People's Choice winners - Dave Dimmitt, third; Janiece Lester with The Grand Theatre, first; and Michelle Engel with Red Oak Rotary, second. Above right are the Judges' Choice winners: Chris Cashatt with the Red Oak Fire Department, third; Dimmitt, second; and Engel with the Rotary Club, first. Watch next week's Express for more details. (Peggy Boeye, Brad Hicks/The Express)