

boone county arts council news



September 2014

Millennium Mural is Re-created by Original Artist

As the Millennium approached it was decided that a mural representing the most significant occurrences in Boone County history should be created. A survey asking for the 5 most important events and people went out to the community. The Millennium Mural represents the responses to that survey: the devastating tornado of 1967; the crowning of Judi Ford as Miss America in 1969; the Boone County Fair – an annual event since 1855; the opening of the Chrysler Assembly plant in 1965; and Boone County's greatest industry – farming. It was the rich farmland which could be purchased from the government for \$1.55/acre that brought the first settlers to Boone County in the mid 1830's. As the self-sufficient farmers began to produce excesses two agricultural industries emerged, dairy and canning, which linked the farm to the factory. One of the pioneers of the canning industry was Hugh K. Funderburg who came as a supervisor to the Keene-Belvidere Canning Company and ended up being the owner. He also



Two shots of the Millennium Mural, the top one as it was years ago and the bottom as it is now.

purchased farmland and leased it to farmers who produced peas and corn for the K-B. In November of 2011 an auction sale of almost 3,400 acres of K-B farmland brought an average of \$8,700/acre. So the rich prairie soil remains Boone County's greatest asset.

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boone county
arts council
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Newsletter masthead created by
Beth Luhman and Gary Simon

The programs of the
Boone County Arts Council
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Illinois Arts
Council, a state
agency.



Members and Friends Gather at Brick Café for Sweetheart Party

A fun evening of socializing and snacking was had by those attending the Sweetheart Party, which is fast becoming an annual event of the Boone County Arts Council. Arts Council members, prospective members and guests gathered at the Brick Cafe and Gallery in Belvidere on February 12, 2014 from 5 to 7 pm. They enjoyed a "Taste of the Brick", as well as chocolate goodies and beverages provided by the BCAC board members. A highlight of the evening was the raffling off of two pieces of hand-thrown pottery, donated by artist Dee Santorini. Lucky winners were Maria Werchowec and John McMorrow. Watch for notification of the next scheduled social event in the coming months, mark your calendars, and plan to attend!



ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY GRANT FOR 2015

The Boone County Arts Council is pleased to announce that the Illinois Arts Council Agency has awarded the BCAC a grant of \$1175.00 for the 2015 fiscal year. The funds will be used for artists fees and program promotion.

24th Season

Summer Concerts in the Park

The BCAC has completed the 24th season of the Summer Concerts in the Park series. We presented seven concerts beginning on Sunday, June 8 and ending on Sunday, July 20. Five concerts were scheduled for the Baltic Mill Stage in Belvidere Park. However, due to our rainy summer, two of those concerts were moved to the Community Building. We are very fortunate that we were able to use the Community Building for those concerts at the last moment. It is a beautiful facility and the bands enjoyed performing there.

Our June 29 concert was held at the Boone County Fairgrounds in cooperation with the Heritage Days Festival. The concert was held prior to the fireworks. Our last concert was held at the Candlewick Lake Recreation Center on July 20.

The concerts were:

- June 8 - The Bluegrass Reunion Band sponsored by NDK America
- June 15 - The Tom Mac Group sponsored by Swedish American Foundation
- June 22 - Holmes Productions sponsored by Byron Bank
- June 29 - The Silver Creek Band sponsored by Swedish American Hospital/
Belvidere
- July 6 - The Jodi Beach Trio and Special Guest sponsored by AARP/Illinois
- July 13 - Rockford Chamber Players Brass Quintet sponsored by Alpine Bank
- July 20 - Prime Time Live Band sponsored by Candlewick Lake Association and
Poplar Grove State Bank

We also want to thank the Belvidere Park District and the Community Building Complex Committee of Boone County for their help. Our program was partially sponsored by the Illinois Arts Council Agency. We are already looking forward to another wonderful series of concerts in 2015!



Bluegrass Reunion Band, the first concert of the season, sponsored by NDK America.



Jodi Beach Trio. Concert was held at the Community Building. Sponsored by AARP/Illinois.

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William F. Hueg III, one of the most celebrated large format artists in the world was commissioned to paint the mural which was dedicated on July 23, 2000.

A dedication ceremony is planned for Sunday, October 12, at 4:00 PM. Both the artist, Bill Hueg, and Judi Ford Nash plan to attend. A reception at the



The years have not been kind to the mural. Techniques and inks have made much progress during the time while the sun was fading the mural. Thanks to a bequest from the estate of Marjorie Blietz, a dedicated community advocate for the arts, the Arts Council has undertaken the re-creation of the mural. The original artist is painting a duplicate.

The Arts Council will maintain possession of the original. It will be photographed, digitally reproduced and mounted on panels to be hung back in place on the building at the corner of North State Street and Lincoln Avenue.

Baltic Mill will follow the unveiling. The Boone County Arts Council hopes you can come and join in the celebration as we "Share the Vision".

Welcome New Board Members

Middle school Art teacher
Jeni LoDolce and Ida Public
Library Assistant Director/
Head of Youth Services,
Emily Kloniki.

Join us on Facebook!

Boone County Arts Council now has a Facebook page designed by Board Members Lauren and Michael Hart! Please "like" our page for news, updates and pictures of our latest and upcoming events. This summer we were able to post pictures and short video clips of our Concerts in the Park series to our Facebook page. We also began to feature information on sculptures that can be found in Boone County. It is a great way to reach out to the community to let them know about upcoming arts events, and to share updates and news.



Volunteers Needed!

We could use some help at the Fifth Grade Arts Festival. If you are willing and able, each of the 7 teachers needs an assistant for each of the 3 days (10/21, 10/22, and 10/23). The day goes from 8:30 AM 'till 1:30 PM. Arts Council provides a light lunch. Hope you can give us some time. Thanks. Sherry Lindquist

Showcase for Young Artists Held at Belvidere North H.S.

The art instructors, from kindergarten to high school, chose five works from each of their art classes to compete for the class winner ribbons. Advanced art students judged the lower grades while art staff evaluated the high school level and chose the Benzel Award winner. The art work ranged from ceramic and clay models to huge pastel portraits and included photography and computer projects.

Boone County Arts Council Board members served cookies and lemonade to the artists, friends and family during the Open House in the main lobby of the Belvidere North High School. They also handed out Certificates of Achievement to the students whose art was chosen for the show along with information about the BCAC and their new "A Guide to Public Art in Boone County" brochure.



Sis Benzel presents the Heidi Benzel Award to Belvidere North senior **Olivia Cacciatore** for her detailed pen and ink drawing "Tusk."



"The Arts... Share The Vision"
boone county arts council

Snow Storm Does Not Deter BOCO Attendees

Speaking of snow – the 2014 BOCO Expo got off to a slow start on February 1st as people dug out from another snow storm. But that didn't stop the Arts Council from having a booth to advertise what we do to advocate for the arts in Boone County. This year we added a two dimensional art contest for high school students from BHS and BNHS. Visitors to the booth voted for their favorite piece. The People's Choice was a mixed media self-portrait done by Jessica Schloskey, a junior at Belvidere High School under the instruction of Mrs. Reints. She received a monetary award from the Arts Council. We plan to repeat the contest at BOCO 2015.



Belvidere North's "Ice Gator" Gets Viewer's Choice Award and 3rd Place Overall

The winter of 2013/14 had SNOW and that means sculpting in the annual Illinois Snow Sculpting Competition at Rockford's Siniissippi Park. The team from Belvidere North High School included students Hayley Beck, Jesse Harris, Joelle Marsh and Alex Palk, advised by art teacher, Edith Obenchain. The piece, Ice Gator, was inspired by a sculpture that Hayley Beck did for a school project. They received 1st place in the Viewer's Choice Award and 3rd place overall in the high school category. Good job team! Let's everyone pray for snow this winter – just enough of the kind that melts in February!



Jack & Peggy Wolf Donate 6th Sculpture to Boone County

Boone County's newest sculpture is in Belvidere Park in front of the Baltic Mill Stage. Donated by Jack & Peggy Wolf "New Twist on an Old Tale" is a whimsical vision by sculptor Randy Hand of the classic tortoise and the hare race.

The remaining sculptures are "The Aviator", "Field of Blue", "Old Man and Dog", "He is They Are" and "Babysitter". To locate these sculptures, see "A Guide to Public Art in Boone County."



"The Arts... Share The Vision"
boone county arts council

Bits and Pieces. . .

HarvestFest Saturday, October 4, 2014

The “Musical Petting Zoo” will again draw a crowd to the Arts Council tent at the October HarvestFest celebration in Belvidere Park. The sounds of musical instruments will fill the air as people attempt to toot, tap, strum and blow. Most of the participants are children, but a few adult musicians always pick up an instrument to see if they remember the notes of old. Our thanks to band director Tom Huber and Cathie Huber and to Jeff and Kathy Walton for volunteering as instructors, and to the Belvidere middle schools for the loan of instruments. Over a dozen Belvidere and Belvidere North H.S. band members will assist the children and encourage them to join the bands of Belvidere!

BCAC sponsors and judges the “Scarecrow Contest”. Yes, the building of a straw figure is an art! Mark your calendar for this year’s 5th annual event: Saturday, October 4, 2014.



First Place by Diane Kane's BHS environmental club called KARE.



This is the second place scarecrow by Tom Ott. It is titled "Harvest Round-Up"



Honorable Mention at 2013 Harvestfest “Scarecub” by Flora Grange



There's Art in the Boonies

Working with the Center for Learning in Retirement, a division of Rock Valley College, BCAC Vice-President Jan July presented a class about public art in Boone County. The September 22 class covered local sculpture, architecture and murals. For more information about other classes, go to www.rockvalleycollege.edu/clr.

“The Guide to Public Art in Boone County” was created by Arts Council Vice-President Jan July and is available at many places in the county and will soon be available on our website. Jan maintains the brochure and updates it as needed.

A Guide to Public Art in Boone County



Little Beth

Installed in front of the Baltic Mill in 2011. Purchased with funds donated in memory of Beth Luhman, one of the founders of the Boone County Arts Council.

Boone County Arts Council

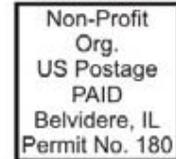
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Return Service Requested



Upcoming Events . . .

**Musical Petting Zoo at HarvestFest in Belvidere Park —
Oct. 4, 10 AM to 4 PM**

**Dedication of the newly re-made Millennium Mural on
the corner of N. State St. and Lincoln Ave. —
Oct. 12, 4:00 PM**

**Fifth Grade Arts Festival at the Community Building —
Oct. 21, 22, 23, 8:30 AM to 1:20 PM**

**Literacy Festival sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran
School — Nov. 7. Visit immanuelknights.org for more
information.**