

## Willoughby Arts Collaborative hopes chalk fest raises awareness of group

Chalk fest was part of Last Stop Willoughby



Among the eight artists who participated in the chalk fest during Last Stop Willoughby was Lori Lewarski, who created chalk art of a large eagle. (Submitted).

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Eight professional artists last weekend created chalk art for selfies on the Willoughby Public Library, Fiona's, Sweet Beginnings and Ballantine as part of the [annual Last Stop Willoughby](#).

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Madyson Sinkovic won first place for the most creative and interactive chalk art, which was a giraffe in pastels with a leaf on the wall so it would look like the leaf was being held.

In addition, Lori Lewarski created a large eagle; Finley Fiediga-Ramsey created bubbles with a wand, so someone could make it look like they were blowing into the wand to make the bubbles come out; and Rose Mary Caruso created angel wings.

Also, Cristi Eppes created butterflies that had lines coming from them, so they looked like they were balloons; Lori Diemer created a Downtown Willoughby-related artwork; Teagan Farley created a window; and Edward Sajovic created a gem box to symbolize with words that read Willoughby is a gem.



7 of 7

Eight professional artists participated in the Willoughby Arts Collaborative's chalk fest during the annual Last Stop Willoughby event. (Submitted).

"We were really proud of how successful it was. It was great seeing people watching the artists chalk," said Pat Carroll-Bonander, secretary for the Willoughby Arts Collaborative, which worked with the nonprofit [Heart of Willoughby](#) to put on the chalk fest.

"All the postings I've seen on Facebook and Instagram from people who visited — they were saying, 'We love these. We wish they were permanent,'" Carroll-Bonander added. "It really got the community involved, which is one of the goals of WAC. It's to enhance the city through arts."

The WAC's mission is to create and support a community rich in the arts. The vision is to improve the lives and livelihood of residents, visitors and businesses in and around Lake County through a connection to and a genuine investment in arts and culture.

"One of the reasons we wanted to do this (chalk fest) is we're really trying to increase the exposure of the collaborative," Carroll-Bonander said. "We're in the middle of a membership drive, so people can go to [willoughbyartscollaborative.org](#). They can become a member and that helps to spur future projects for us to be able to do."

In addition to the chalk fest the eight artists participated in, children were able to pick a space on the sidewalk in downtown Willoughby to do chalk work of their own, she said. Children also received first, second and third prizes.

As an artist herself, Carroll-Bonander said she would have loved to have participated in the chalk fest, but she decided to step back and represent the collaborative that day.

"Greg Patt, president of the Heart of Willoughby, approached me about adding something new to (Last Stop Willoughby)," she said. "We jumped on the opportunity. The Heart of Willoughby is a nonprofit and the collaborative just this year became a full, nonprofit organization. Our goal is to work with the groups and organizations so we can both benefit, and have people in the city appreciate art and become involved in art in so many forms."

