

Art dealer flies with Red Wing fund-raiser



On display: Tracey Conn-Bernstein believes the artwork depicting Donald Duck in a Detroit Red Wing outfit will score with fans.

Who is that Detroit Red Wing ferociously pushing the puck down the ice? Why, it's... Bugs Bunny!

Tracey Conn-Burnstein, owner of Art Quote International of West Bloomfield, explained: "We wanted to do a fund-raiser that would give something to the person when they made a donation."

The "we" were members of the Hutzel Hospital Women's Guild, which was looking for a way to raise money for its new birthing center.

Conn-Burnstein has had long association with Hutzel Hospital. Her husband Mark is a doctor there. "I have a very strong affection and affiliation with the (Detroit Medical Center) - which includes Hutzel," she said.

Conn-Burnstein has worked closely with Juanita Wade, director of Volunteer Service for the Hutzel Hospital Women's Guild. And it was Wade who approached her about organizing a different kind of fund-raiser.

"Rather than just asking people for donations, they decided to have a work of art created that they could sell."

"I wanted something that would be a piece of the history of Detroit," Wade said.

Conn-Burnstein has extensive connections with artists around the world and contacted Charles McKimson, who with brothers Tom and Robert, created such legendary cartoon characters as Speedy Gonzales, Foghorn Leghorn, the Tasmanian Devil and Bugs Bunny.

Receiving permission from the Detroit Red Wings, the National Hockey League and Warner Brothers, McKimson produced a litho-serigraph of Bugs Bunny wearing a Red Wings uniform and chasing a hockey puck across the ice.

If there's something familiar looking about his stance, it's because Bugs was drawn to resemble the skating style of Red Wings captain Steve Yzerman.

And to make the print even more attractive, a genuine Red-Wings "Believe" patch is included in the 22-by-32-inch, framed work.

The patch was worn by the Red Wings in honor of colleagues Vladimir Konstantinov and Sergei Mnatsakanov who were injured in a car crash in Birmingham a year ago.

The patches were purchased by (Detroit Medical Center) - which includes Hutzel," she said.

The framed package also includes a customized octopus and the logos from the Red Wings, NHL, Stanley Cup and Warner Brothers.

And to make it even more attractive, every print is personally signed by Yzerman.

"He did it during the playoffs," Conn-Burnstein said.

"It's a real piece of Hockeystown memorabilia," Conn-Burnstein said. "It says it all. Look at the Wings and all the adversity they faced."

Despite playing a season without their injured teammates, the Wings managed to win their second straight Stanley Cup this year.

Only 500 copies of the print were made, and the first was donated by the Women's Guild to the family of Red Wings owner Mike Ilitch to be displayed in the Olympia Room at Joe Louis Arena.

Hutzel began taking orders for the art work in April. "It's going very well," Wade said.

The Bugs Bunny-Red Wings graphic is on display now at Sam's Retail in Farmington Hills, among other stores.

The work is limited to 500 prints and costs \$625. Payment is accepted in cash, by check made out to Hutzel Hospital Women's Guild, VISA, MasterCard or American Express.

Each print comes with a photo of artist Charles McKimson and Red Wings captain Steve Yzerman signing the print.

For more information, call Juanita Wade at (248) 745-7669.

Giddyup for summer fun



Off to the races: At left, Madelyn Karoub, 2 1/2, rides a play horse in Heritage Park Thursday. Madelyn's mom was watching nearby. Above, Madison Atkins, 14 months, takes her turn on the horse. Madison's grandfather, Kenneth Hoepfner, was baby-sitting Madison for the day. On Thursday, children, parents and grandparents alike flocked to the parks where the temperatures slid into the low 80s with low humidity. Founders Festival organizers are hoping the temperatures stay comfortable this week as thousands of visitors will flock to the annual event, which swings into full gear Thursday, July 9.

Memorial park to provide place for reflection in Hills

Farmington Hills city officials commemorated the start of work at Memorial Park on Middlebelt and 11 Mile with a groundbreaking ceremony June 28.

The groundbreaking capped off a weekend celebrating Farmington Hills' 25th anniversary as a city.

Southeast Hospice of Michigan donated 3.2 acres of land to the city and \$10,000 seed money to develop a park.

In April, city council approved the idea of a memorial park, a place to allow residents to remember loved ones who have died.

In keeping with the solemnity, dignity, and respect begun by the hospice, the park will have a tranquil setting, city officials said.

"What we are doing here today is preserving a piece of our land in a meaningful way," said City Manager Daniel Hobbs during the groundbreaking ceremony.

"And, as we move confidently and purposefully into the future, it is appropriate that we reflect



Dirty work: Farmington Hills council members Jerry Ellis (left), Vicki Barnett, Terry Sever and Cheryl Oliverio; and City Manager Dan Hobbs along with 25th Anniversary organizer Jeff Stewart; watch as council colleague Nancy Bates and Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi turn the dirt at the groundbreaking for Memorial Park Sunday.

on the past and pay our respects to those who have gone on before us."

In order to get the project started, city council authorized \$98,000 be spent on the park. Total cost, without landscaping, is estimated at \$200,000.

City officials hope to make up the difference through donations from businesses.

Landscaping and perpetual maintenance will be accomplished from memorial donations in remembrance of loved ones, Hobbs said.

AGENDAS

Farmington Hills City Council

City Hall, 474-8116

7:30 p.m. Monday, July 6

- Agenda items include:
 - Presentation by U.S. Rep. Jon Knollenberg.
 - Resolution in support of fireworks on an annual basis.
 - Consideration of the Traffic SAFE-TE program for three-speed bumps on LaMuer Drive.
 - Consideration of final approval of the preliminary plan for Open Space Plan for Applebrooke Subdivision in Section

32.

- Consideration of approval of payback agreement for sanitary sewer installation on Goldsmith Street, Section 32.
- Consideration of award of contract for the Grand River Phase III Improvements to LaRocca Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$171,671.50.

Farmington City Council

City Hall, 474-8500

8 p.m. Monday, July 6

Agenda items include:

- Introduction of Becky Burns and Jeff Pavlick, new owners of Farmington Bakery.
- Presentation of City Visioning Process Report by Dr. Hal Stack, Wayne State University.
- Consideration to approve Historic District signage and placement.
- Consideration to introduce ordinance to regulate tobacco use by minors.
- Second construction estimate on 1998 Paving Program/Asphalt Contract.

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