



## Artists share their talent during annual ArtWalk

By MICHELLE GEORGE • The Eagle-Gazette Staff • July 23, 2010

LANCASTER — It was Koranna Spurgeon's first ArtWalk, but it didn't take long for the experienced enamelist to grab the attention of quite a few art enthusiasts Friday night.

In fact, less than 30 minutes after the annual festival event kicked off in downtown Lancaster, Spurgeon already was declaring the evening a success.

"I had people who actually started coming in at 4 (p.m.), and I've already sold a few pieces," said Spurgeon, who has been creating jewelry and other unique enamel pieces for 20 years. "So my first ArtWalk has gone great so far."

Spurgeon, who showed her art in the Real Living HER office on West Main Street with fellow enamelist Barbara Frost, was one of dozens of artists to showcase their work in downtown Lancaster on Friday evening. Thirty-nine businesses opened their doors for the event which, despite 90 degree temperatures, brought out hundreds of residents.

Like many of the artists featured in the event Friday, Spurgeon had her own story about how she got involved in creating art.

"I actually wanted to take a silversmith class, but it was closed, so I took an enameling class instead," said Spurgeon, who later taught enameling for six years at the Columbus Cultural Arts Center. "That was 20 years ago."

For Gahanna resident Jerry Davidson, who showcased his watercolor paintings in Fairfield Federal Savings & Loan Friday, art is something he's always created, in one form or another.

He started out as an art teacher and, upon retiring 18 years ago, began doing personalized paintings. The majority of his artwork on display Friday was portraits he had done of local homes; Davidson will paint the homes in an autumn, winter, spring or summer setting if his customer requests it.

"I take photographs of the residences and then work from that," Davidson said. "It typically takes

about three days (to finish a piece).”

Unlike Spurgeon, Friday wasn't Davidson's first appearance at the ArtWalk; in fact, he's been showcasing his art during the festival for 25 years, the majority of those at Fairfield Federal.

“Fairfield Federal has been so good to me,” said Davidson, who will set up his easel and paints at the bank from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday to show people how he creates his art. “This is the perfect place to showcase your work because it's nice and open.”

For the artists of Fairfield County Developmental Disabilities' Blue Shoe Arts, their perfect location was down the street at the newly reopened Art & Clay on Main. The artists recently moved their studio from the Opportunity Center on Coonpath Road to Art & Clay on Main, which is now owned by the Fairfield County Board of DD.

On Friday, well-known Blue Shoe artist Joseph A. Greene set up a spot in the back of the business to do custom drawings for people, flanked by is unique, cartoon-style drawings.

“The move went great and the artists really love it here,” Blue Shoe Arts Director Cheryl Fey said of the artists.

Fey said this is the third consecutive year that Blue Shoe Arts has exhibited at the business. She said she and the people at Art and Clay quickly noticed how well the unique, Blue Shoe artwork fit in with the pottery.

“They told us, we don't want this artwork to go away,” Fey said with a smile. “And it hasn't.”

**Michelle George can be reached at (740) 681-4342 or [mgeorge@nncogannett.com](mailto:mgeorge@nncogannett.com).**