



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2019

LAW LIBRARY CELEBRATES LOCAL ARTISTS

Uniontown, PA – With National Library Week officially under way, Fayette County libraries are being celebrated as pillars of their communities.

Last month, Fayette County Commissioners issued a proclamation officially declaring April 7 to 13 National Library Week, acknowledging that today's libraries are not just about books, but what they can do for and with their communities.

Commissioners Dave Lohr, Angela Zimmerlink and Chairman Vincent Vicites called the county's libraries "treasured institutions where people of all backgrounds can make lasting connections."

Commissioners celebrated libraries' continued dedication to "freedom of information for all" and urged all residents to support their local libraries in an effort to strengthen communities and transform lives.

One library has embraced the sentiment that libraries are for more than just reading through a unique art program.

The Fayette County Law Library, located in the Fayette County Courthouse in Uniontown, has hosted its Artist of the Month program for the past 12 years.

Law Librarian Barbara Pasqua started the program after a Southwestern Law Librarians meeting.

"I wanted to do something different so I asked Judge (Conrad) Capuzzi if I could do an art program," Pasqua said. "I had such an overwhelming response that I couldn't give each artist the time I felt they deserved, so I started the Artist of Month."

Each artist's work remains on display throughout the Law Library for about four weeks, and many of their pieces are available for purchase while being showcased.

The majority of the nearly 150 local artists Pasqua has featured over the years are local, although several out-of-state artists have participated.

"We are the only law library in the state that has an art program," Pasqua said. "I've had all kinds of artists over the years, from 8-year-olds to 98-year-olds. I've had Minecraft, blacksmithing, jewelry and so many others."

This month's featured artist is Fayette County resident Lois Watts of Dawson, whose colorful sea glass jewelry has attracted plenty of attention.

“Our lawyers see and hear a lot of gruesome details when they’re working in the courtroom,” Pasqua said. “So when they come into the library to either look something up or just to get away, they see something delightful around them and it gets their minds off of what they just heard for a little while.”

Open to the public, the Fayette County Law Library contains Pennsylvania statutes, federal laws, case law reporters, digests, treatises on law, form books, law sources and more. Additionally, the library’s archives include a variety of titles other than law, including a rare books collection and local Fayette County history books.

Pasqua issues monthly alerts when new art arrives, and she said many county employees make special trips to the courthouse just to see the displays.

“We’ve had some really phenomenal artwork here,” she said. “I never turn anyone down, because you never know who’s going to be the next Andy Warhol. I’m not here to judge the art; I’m here to showcase it.”

Pasqua’s monthly artists are booked through June 2020. Interested artists can contact the library for more information at 724-430-1228.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the 2016 Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.

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