

'Ducks on Parade' to stop at Art in the Vineyard

The large art project is scheduled to appear at Alton Baker Park and aims to unite local community members

By Jenni Schultz
Oregon Daily Emerald

Ninety square feet of fiberglass is waddling through Alton Baker Park on July 5, 6 and 7.

Art in the Vineyard is the first stop for "Ducks on Parade" during its summertime tour of Eugene, which ends at the Broadway Grand Reopening in October. The parade

is an art project sponsored by Downtown Eugene Inc., which is promoting it as a collaboration of community members, city agencies, arts organizations and non-profit groups.

The project began as a "whim of an idea of Linda Wheatley's," Downtown Eugene marketing director Michelle Emmons said.

Wheatley said the concept came from a similar idea used at the Bearfest festival in Belfast, Maine. Wheatley said that after seeing the community's reaction in Belfast, she wanted people to experience "the wonderful feeling" that she

had. She also wanted to "give people a reason to come downtown."

Emmons said she is "very pleasantly surprised by the success," especially since it is "the first year of a grass-roots type of project." The success of this year should prompt at least three more years of the project, she said.

Each sponsor donated \$2,500-\$10,000. In order to keep the duck at the end of the tour, sponsors needed to contribute \$10,000. Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey and his wife sponsored a duck, and the mayor said the decorations were a "joint effort" of himself, his wife and the

artist that was assigned to his duck. Each duck has an individual name and a plaque with the name of the sponsor and artist.

Artists have been working on the completion of 25-30 ducks, five of which will be featured at Art in the Vineyard. Torrey is attending the festival and hopes his duck will be done in time to be shown at the event.

Decorations for the polyurethane creations cannot be religious, political or sexual.

At the end of the tour, the ducks will be auctioned to the public. Nonprofit organizations will

receive part of the proceeds from the auction.

"So far, this project has done exactly what I was hoping," Wheatley said.

To learn more about "Ducks on Parade," visit www.eugene.com. Artists interested in being considered for the program can pick up application packets at the Wild Duck Brewery, the Maude Kerns Art Center or at the Lane Arts Council office at 44 West Broadway, Suite 304, in Eugene.

Contact the managing editor at jennischultz@dailyemerald.com.

Fireworks

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plenty of noisy crackles.

Fun Factor: 6, Artistic Quality: 6, Firepower: 6

"TNT Blasts": Plastic balls that emit a series of crackling charges, like mini-firecrackers. These were great for throwing at each other's feet while yelling, "Dance, boy, dance!" (Never throw fireworks at each other.)

Fun: 5, Art: 2, Fire: 4

"Fire Crackle": Long, paper-wrapped strings of the same crackles in "TNT Blasts," but they last longer. The McGyver possibilities seemed endless with these. (Do not McGyver your fireworks.)

Fun: 3, Art: 2, Fire: 5

"Killer Bee": About as entertaining as having a screwdriver crammed into your ear. Loud and screeching with very little sparkle payoff.

Fun: 1, Art: 2, Fire: 2

"Climbing Panda": Cute, to be sure, but not necessarily suitable for young children. A little paper panda rises into the air on a somewhat phallic paper staff. But sexual innuendoes offered the only pleasure; the firework did almost nothing.

Fun: 2, Art: 1, Fire: 1

"Jack in the Box Surprise": Lived up to its name, if a little weak. The surprises — tiny, spinning fireballs — came bouncing out with joy, but it was short.

Fun: 4, Art: 4, Fire: 3

\$2 to \$4

"Crackling Cactus": Typical

multicolor stars and sparkles — but with "TNT Blasts" attached to it. Solid explosions, and worth the money.

Fun: 6, Art: 6, Fire: 6

"Purple Rain" and "Purple Rain Candles": We thought of Prince only for a second, and then they were done. Nice but short-lived gold and purple. One of the "Candles" did have an unexpected projectile finish, which made it more fun and nearly caught our photographer on fire.

Fun: 4, A: 4, Fire: 4

"Queen of Hearts": At first it seemed an average gushing cone, but the surprise ending was tall. Pleasant but not colorful.

Fun: 4, A: 2, Fire: 4

\$4 to \$10

"Luck of the Irish": It had some jig in its step, with multicolored stars (why not all green, eh?) and multiple rounds of fire-power, but the annoying banshee scream would have been more enjoyable with a strong drink and a pair of earmuffs. It needed a bit more luck.

Fun: 4, Art: 4, Fire: 5

"Carnival Fountain": Step right up and see the gen-u-ine, accept-no-imitations Carnival Fountain! Long-lasting — especially at \$4.99 each — and full of surprises.

Fun: 7, Art: 6, Fire: 6

More than \$10

"The American Spirit": Red, white and blue stars (wow, three colors) and the wrapper featured a patriotic flag. Plus, we took the opportunity to light it with an

American Spirit cigarette, so the motif was complete. Staff members were split on this one. Some said if you didn't like it, you must be a terrorist. The others thought it was overbearing and a bit obnoxious, and it began with three staccato whistles so loud and piercing, all we could say was, "No wonder the French hate us."

Fun: 4, Art: 5, Fire: 6

"Iguana Man" was a real treat, with plenty of beautiful stars, bursts of crackles, crazy darting sparks and plenty of noise without deafening whistles. It lasted plenty long and was worth the money.

Fun: 6, Art: 7, Fire: 6

— Jillian Daley, Jan Montry and Pat Payne also contributed to this report.

Contact the editor in chief at editor@dailyemerald.com.



Adam Jones Emerald

Geri Tague, center, and her daughters, Daina, left, and Sheri purchase fireworks in the 30th Avenue and Hilyard Street Albertson's parking lot in advance of the Fourth of July holiday, which is when distributors say the best deals can be found.

Fireworks can cause eye injuries

Nothing says "celebration" like sparklers, firecrackers and rockets, but with the Fourth of July personal injury is often overlooked.

According to the Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology, more than 8,500 injuries result from fireworks every year, 2,000 of which are eye injuries.

Eye Specialist and OAO member Dr. John Polansky, M.D., said the majority of injuries come from unsupervised adolescent boys and small children.

"If parents are inside watching TV and the kids are outside (using fireworks) — that's just not a good idea," he said.

Since 1981, OAO has sponsored a "Fireworks Safety Month" aimed at curbing eye-related injuries from fireworks.

"The good news is we've had a substantial de-

crease in injury," Polansky said.

This year, OAO is urging fireworks fans to attend local fireworks displays put on by professionals or use special precautions when using their own.

The Casey Eye Institute, located at the Oregon Health & Science University, is also urging families to visit professional displays, saying a third of firework-related eye injuries lead to blindness.

Doctors at the Casey Eye Institute advise people who choose to use their own fireworks to take precautions against injury. They suggest not using bottle rockets, not putting fireworks in glass bottles, and wearing protective eye goggles.

Despite the national average, firework-related injuries are low in Lane County.

"We are aware of very few injuries," Lane County Sheriff's Sgt. Steven Broome said.

— Jan Montry

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 2). You may initially have trouble with an authority figure, but don't give up. Once you align yourself and begin striving for the same goal, you'll be successful together. That's the underlying theme for the entire year, in a variety of situations. If you master this, everything else gets easier.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) _ Today is an 8 _ Don't go racing off with your true love, and leave the bath water running at home. You'll have fun even if you do make a mess, but avoiding the mess is better.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 6 _ Putting up with a difficult person could pay quite well. The more that individual wants what you have or can do, the more valuable you become.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a 7 _ You're smart and enthusiastic, but don't get reckless. Have a plan A and a Plan B. Do the homework! You won't get extra points for spontaneity.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) _ Today is a 6 _ You like to be polite, but sometimes you lose your cool. That could happen again soon, so watch out. If you attract too much attention, you could get marked for a promotion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is an 8 _ If you're traveling, give yourself plenty of time to get there. Also check your pockets twice to make sure you have your tickets and your credit card. There is some confusion, but all ends well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is a 6 _ You continue to encounter setbacks, but don't give up. And don't rely on others to do what you can do better and more quickly by yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is an 8 _ You're being tempted something awful, but you can resist a little while longer. You could sneak out tonight, but you should know that there'll be a big test tomorrow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is a 6 _ Don't think about what you'd rather be doing. Push yourself to work harder. You're awesome when you set your mind to it. Put your back into it, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is an 8 _ You are looking very good. Although you shouldn't flirt during office hours, you might get away with it for a minute or two. Make a date for later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 5 _ You often run the show, but that's not necessary now. It might be smarter to sit still and follow another's directions. Stay out of the controversy, too, if you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is a 7 _ Even if you're struggling, don't despair. You're a good student. Trust yourself. You'll find a way to solve the problem. Keep reading.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 6 _ You'd like to buy a nice gift, but you really can't afford it. That's fine. Your loved one would rather you stuck to your budget. The thought counts.

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