

Brookfield unveils first Gallery Walk

By Renee Tomell
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Brookfield, IL -

Brookfield is celebrating its arts and business communities with its first Gallery Walk this week.

The synergistic project, presented by the Grand Prairie Crossing Business District, is the brainchild of Abby Brennan, owner of Brennan's Massage & Spa, who credits special assistance from Patricia Weber, owner of Le Grand Décor Ltd., and Linda Kampschroeder, co-owner of Salt Creek Wine Bar.

The work of 22 artists will be displayed in more than a dozen local businesses.

"Our hopes are to create an event for the community to come out and enjoy their local business district," Brennan said, who plans for the event to build into a fine arts festival over time. "Our hope is to bring the arts more significantly into the community."

Gallery Walk maps will be available at the participating businesses, which are within easy walking distance.

Brennan said the artists, who hail from Chicago to Aurora, will exhibit paintings, jewelry, photography, sculpture and prints.

"A silent auction will take place at each business for the duration of the event," Kampschroeder said of the artwork purchase process.

From 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, patrons will have a chance to meet the artists, and place final bids at a reception at each site.

Closing festivities will take place in the Salt Creek Wine Bar that evening, where jazz vocalist Lesley Byers will entertain.

Cartoonist drawn to new artistic venture

Award-winning cartoonist Charley Krebs will be among the 22 artists in the first Brookfield Gallery Walk.

"I am pretty much a self-taught cartoonist having had the usual influences for someone my age from superhero comic books, classic comic strips and, of course, Mad magazine," Krebs said.

He was cartoonist for both his high school and college newspapers, Morton East and Morton College in Cicero, before joining Berwyn Life in 1979 and beginning a long career as a newspaper political cartoonist.

"For this exhibit, I chose subject matter that connects to Brookfield as I know it from my days of drawing about it in the Suburban Life," he said. "Things like politics and baseball and veterans. And jazz, because the Brookfield Jazz Society is one of the best groups of its kind."

Krebs will show a series of poster reproductions of original cartoons he drew for various publications including his ongoing cartoon feature for Chicago Jazz Magazine and political cartoons done for this newspaper group. He recently closed a summer-long, one-man show at the Riverside Arts Center.

He said he is excited about the gallery walk project, adding, "The budding arts community has found a pretty fun and passionate place to take its first steps."

If you go

What: The Grand Prairie Crossing Business District in Brookfield will present its first Gallery Walk, displaying the works of 22 artists in more than a dozen businesses on Grand Boulevard. Art may be purchased in a silent auction.

When: The event continues through Saturday, Oct. 4, capped by artist receptions at each business from 5 to 9 p.m. that evening. Closing night festivities — featuring jazz vocalist Lesley Byers — will be in the Salt Creek Wine Bar, 8900 Fairview Ave.

Where: Brennan's Massage & Spa, Brookfield Public Library, Le Grand Décor Ltd., Toscanino Italian Market, Brookfield Jewelers, Edward Jones, Fleck & Uhlich Ltd., Trattoria Gemelli, Christopher Mark Flowers & Gifts, Dream City Realty, Salt Creek Wine Bar, Zoo City Frame Up, Corazon's Nail Salon, and Powell's Way of Kenpo Yoga & Natural Healing.

Info: For details on the Gallery Walk, call Brennan's at (708) 255-5335 or e-mail abby@brennanspa.com. To reach Salt Creek Wine Bar, call (708) 387-2432.