



WINTER 2023



THE LOFT ON MAIN

artbeat

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Thank You from Sharon Boyles

Last November marked the 5th Anniversary of The Loft on Main. Although I was not involved in coming up with the concept or getting it off the ground, it only took me a few months after the doors opened to realize this was something worth doing...not just for myself, but for the community I live in.

I grew up in a rural community (Como) where my elementary (through 8th grade) art class consisted of getting out crayons, construction paper, scissors and glue and being told to make something. It was my least favorite part of school, so it was wonderful news to hear that I did not have to take art in High School. My sons, however, grew up in Morrison, and their feelings were totally different than mine. It was, for the most part, the art teachers that opened their eyes to a whole world of creativity and appreciation that I never knew, and for that, I will be forever grateful. When Mrs. Anne Frame called and asked if I would consider being on the Board, how could I not be? It was my opportunity to give back a little bit for what my sons had been given.

As I became more involved with The Loft, I gained an appreciation not only for the finished artwork, but also for the process of creating each piece. I met the artists and listened to their stories. I marveled at the imagination, talent, and craftsmanship displayed. Each piece is truly a bit of the life of its creator! In addition, the space at The Loft is filled with so many positive feelings...I love to just sit and try to take it all in.

2022 was filled with activities supporting the arts in Morrison. I consider myself fortunate to be a part of that support. From painting tiny canvases...to painting fish and ornaments...I am proud to have been a part! Watching artists young and old create their masterpieces has been a privilege, and being a part of providing a safe environment for people to meet and converse is heartwarming.

Now, as The Loft begins its sixth year of operation, I want to thank all those who have been involved. Thank you to those who started things rolling to create such a beautiful place. Thank you to the artists, the volunteers, the donors, the customers, and the teachers! (Believe me, it has taken everyone.) And thank you for giving me this opportunity to grow!

Pictured above left corner - "Spring Cardinals" numbered print of Fran Plude's original watercolor painting; Above (L-R) Bird in Flight oil painting by Andrew Holt; Unique Valentine's Day cards currently available at The Loft; "Finch #1" gouache by Hannah Rillie

Sharon Boyles

**Sharon Boyles, Treasurer,
Manager and Volunteer Coordinator,
Loft on Main Board of Directors**



New Art at The Loft: (pictured above far left) - "Rainy Day" oil painting by Joe Stuart; (Above left) - Divided box with chip carving by hand (inside and out) by Ed Hammelman. Above right: Over 300 ornaments were painted at The Loft on November 8 and December 3, making for an absolutely lovely and unique tree for the holiday season!

DID YOU KNOW?

- After slow sales in September, October, and November, customers came through in December allowing us to finish the year with sales slightly greater than 2021.
- Our annual donations have remained relatively constant.
- Artists' agreements with The Loft end on December 31 of each year. Most will renew, but some will choose not to. Our year-end number of artists has remained around 40-45.
- Prices for the artwork are set by the individual artist. Some will reduce or increase their asking prices as they see fit. The Loft will not advertise these changes, nor will we have overall artwork sales.
- New artists are welcome to begin displaying after jury acceptance at any time during the year.
- We have a suggestion box (made and donated by Lloyd Beckman) located on a table (made and donated by Everett Pannier) near the front door. We welcome suggestions and comments.
- We also have a guest book located on the table near the front door, and we appreciate visitors signing it every time they come in.
- We continue to offer programs and classes as requests are made and instructors become available.
- We have a donation box (made and donated by Everett Pannier) located near the checkout.

Brushstrokes of News

Mayor Scott Vandermyde and Howard "Bud" Thompson Join Loft Board of Directors

On January 17, 2023, Morrison Mayor Scott Vandermyde and former Prophetstown Mayor Howard "Bud" Thompson joined the Board of Directors of The Loft on Main.

"We are just thrilled beyond words to have such great people join our Board of Directors," Board President James Mertes said. "Mayor Vandermyde is a devoted public servant who is highly respected throughout our community. The fact that he is willing to devote his time to our important mission is further evidence of his devotion to the betterment of our community."

"I am happy to personally know many of the artists, curators, and Board members who are active in The Loft," Vandermyde said, "and I have purchased several items for my own enjoyment and several items as gifts. It is a wonderful space, and the opportunity for it to evolve to meet community needs is abundant. The future of The Loft is only limited by the imagination of the Board, artists, curators, and patrons. As 'the kids' used to say, this is going to be a fun ride, and I'm looking forward to every minute of it."

"Bud Thompson has been a faithful community leader for as long as memory serves," Mertes continued. "He is also an incredibly talented artist. The addition of Bud, a community leader from Prophetstown, reminds us that the community we serve extends well beyond the City of Morrison." (Coincidentally, Thompson and Vandermyde's father, Dr. Richard Vandermyde, grew up together in Prophetstown, and they have been lifelong friends.) Welcome to The Loft on Main Board of Directors!

The Board of Directors of The Loft on Main is an all-volunteer Board, comprised of devoted volunteers who work together to enhance cultural opportunities and artistic contributions to the community.

CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

Photography Seminars to be Held at Odell Public Library, January 26 and 31

Photography is a mix of art, expression and technology. Mastering it requires a learning curve which may become a joy, a frustration, or both. It may be a joy for the challenges it poses... and a frustration as the lack of mastery of the available tools often results in the inability to express our vision. With the availability of great digital cameras, as well as cameras now built into most phones and other communication devices, most of us have the technology available to produce great pictures. However, taking those great pictures requires some minimum knowledge of what makes a picture great along with a basic understanding of photographic principles. Please join The Loft as we sponsor two upcoming photography seminars, presented by **Wolf and Linnea Koch**. The seminars are **FREE** and open to the public. All ages are welcome!

See With an Artist's Eye
Thursday, January 26

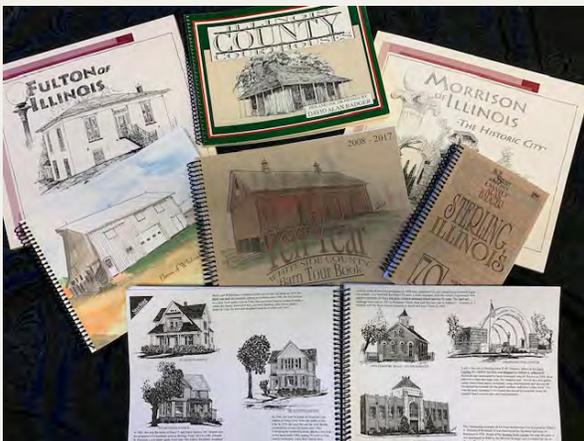
5:30 - 7:30 pm, Odell Public Library, FREE

See with an Artist's Eye covers art, expression and the essential aspects of digital photography. During this seminar, you will develop a basic understanding of what is necessary to understand the limits of the equipment. In addition to emphasizing how to express your vision, the Wolfs will review the variables that affect the photo and how to control them in order to achieve the desired selective focus, depth of field, shutter speed, highlights, etc.

Taking Great Travel Photos
Tuesday, January 31

5:30 - 7:30 pm, Odell Public Library, FREE

Taking Great Travel Photos provides an overview of the essential aspects of digital photography. During this seminar, you will review the variables that affect the photographic process and how to control them, while also receiving suggestions on cameras and other lightweight equipment suitable for travel. In addition, participants will be taken on a journey of how to select unusual images and avoid common stereotypes via real examples covering landscapes, cityscapes, wildlife and florals, with an emphasis on how to express a vision through tools such as composition, light, selective focus, depth-of-field, shutter speed, etc. The simple techniques presented will help you return from your travels with wonderful mementos worthy of sharing with fellow travelers, family and friends.



NEW at The Loft

Illustration books, by Loft artist David Alan Badger, of many architecturally and/or historically significant structures.

JANUARY

26

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31

“SEE WITH AN ARTIST’S EYE” PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR - FREE!

5:30 - 7:30 pm: Odell Public Library. Presented by Wolf and Linnea Koch. *(More details in article at left.)*

“TAKING GREAT TRAVEL PHOTOS” PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR - FREE!

5:30 - 7:30 pm: Odell Public Library. Presented by Wolf and Linnea Koch. *(More details in article at left.)*

THIRD THURSDAY

8 - 10 am: Coffee, conversation and homemade treats (at The Loft on Main)

FEBRUARY

16

MARCH

16

THIRD THURSDAY

8 - 10 am: Coffee, conversation and homemade treats (at The Loft on Main)

THIRD THURSDAY

8 - 10 am: Coffee, conversation and homemade treats (at The Loft on Main)

APRIL

20

OPEN STUDIO AT

THE LOFT: Any time during regular business hours, the back room can be used as an open studio. In addition, times outside of business hours may be scheduled.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS AND COMING SOON! (TIMES/DATES TBD)

COMING SOON:

- Painting Classes with Andrew Holt (fee)
- Music Lessons with Samantha Scholl (fee)
- Painting with Nina (fee)
- Plein Air Painting with Joe Stuart (free, limited to 10 registrants). To be held at Rockwood State Park when weather permits.

The Loft on Main is an entirely volunteer run non-profit organization. There is opportunity to join in as a volunteer in several capacities ranging from being a Board member or committee member, to recording sales and helping keep the gallery clean. If you would like to volunteer at The Loft on Main, contact Sharon Boyles at (815) 718-3682. For questions or information, feel free to email us at:

theloftonmain112@gmail.com

Shop by artwork or artist at:
theloftonmain.org



The Loft on Main Board of Directors

Jim Mertes, President

**Sharon Boyles, Treasurer,
Manager and Volunteer
Coordinator**

Tara Dykhuizen, Secretary

Ned J. Nesti Jr, Curator

**Hannah Rillie, Program
Director and Publicity**

Marcia Haag

Everett Pannier

Gary Taylor

Howard "Bud" Thompson

Joan Vander Bleek

Scott Vandermyde



The Loft on Main

112 E. Main Street, Morrison, IL 61270

Phone: (815) 772-4005

Website: www.theloftonmain.org

Hours: Thursday 10 am - 2 pm
Friday & Saturday 10 am - 4 pm



The Loft on Main, NFP

Above top right corner: Oil painting by Joan VanderBleek. Above (L-R): Valentine's Day card available at The Loft; "Inspired" - an original fabric mosaic by Sharon Boyles; Woodturning combination of spalted maple with marble wood top by Lloyd Beckman.

Special Thank You to Our Patron Donors

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Ted & Wendy Volckmann
Mick Welding
Charles (Chick) & Becky West
Jan Wollam
Dr. Mark & Liz Woods
Mark & Jean Zinnen

**We consider you partners in helping us fulfill our mission.
Thank you for your continued support!**

If we have erroneously omitted your name from the donor list above, please contact Sharon Boyles at 815-718-3682, and we will correct our list as soon as possible! In addition, if you or someone you know would like information on becoming a patron donor, please contact Sharon at the number above. We are a non-profit organization and donations are eligible for deduction.

