



FALL 2024



THE LOFT ON MAIN

artbeat

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2024: A Year in Review

November of 2024? Where has the time gone? My apologies for not getting newsletters out quarterly this year, as I know all of you are chomping at the bit to hear what is happening at The Loft.

Part of our mission is to *provide a venue for local artists to create, promote, and sell original art*. I believe we continue to do that. We display art for sale in the store, with regular store hours, using an all-volunteer staff. We also plan free events for the community to meet and greet our artists. Another part of our mission is to *foster art education through lessons and programs*. We want to do that, but we have struggled with keeping costs for participants down while enticing qualified instructors to come in. In large part because of our patron donors, we have recently been able to offer stipends to area educators willing and able to offer classes at The Loft. One such educator has taken us up on our offer and will be holding classes in November and December. These classes are free to participants. We are very hopeful that all these activities will help us meet our goal of promoting Morrison as a regional arts' destination.

As to what has been happening since the last newsletter...

- In January, we coordinated with Odell Public Library as they brought in a comic book creation class.
- In February, we opened for the Morrison Rotary to hold their weekly meeting and learn about The Loft. Rotarian, Loft Board VP, and artist, Everett Pannier presented the program.
- Early May brought the Department of Fun's "Ken-Taco Wars" to Main Street and tissue paper flower making (*photo above left corner*) to The Loft.
- During the summer, we again coordinated with the library in their summer reading program offering a chance to create colorful rock friends of Stephen King Cobra. *Vincent Van Boa* and two friends were "born" in the windows of The Loft.
- In August, the Morrison Garden Club held a successful Wine Bottle Wind Chime creation project in the back room, and our front window was painted with the 2024 Paint the Town t-shirt design by two high school students (*see photos on pg 2*). And finally, The Loft Board hosted a well-attended meet-and-greet artist time with an appreciation night for patron donors and artists.

(continued on page 2)



**2024:
A YEAR IN REVIEW**

(continued from page 1)

- We closed on Saturday, September 21, as Paint the Town took over Main Street, but helped support the event on Sunday by offering free hands-on artist demonstrations/discussions and special treats. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, and attendance was less than hoped for. With nearly 2/3 of our treats left, we were able to donate them to Resthave Home's Family Fun Day.
- October brought the local daycare kids to our door as they paraded past and collected treats.

In addition to these activities, we continue to provide social time for the community with free coffee and treats on the Third Thursday of each month *(see picture at right)* and a space for gentle yoga three days each week. We have welcomed new artists, artwork, Board members and leaders. We have sold **more than 300 items** and we remain an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization!



Not for one minute do I think this could have been done alone or even by a few. It has been a combined effort of everyone. The artists, the donors, the volunteers, and the community have all played an important role. Keep up the good work!

Sharon Boyles
Sharon Boyles, Treasurer, The Loft on Main



Thanksgiving: CLOSED

Saturday, December 7
Morrison's Christmas Walk
OPEN 10am - 7pm

Sunday, December 22
OPEN 12 noon - 4pm

Monday, December 23
OPEN 10am - 4pm

Tuesday, December 24
OPEN 10am - 12 noon

Brushstrokes of News



THE LOFT ON MAIN WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Born and raised in Rock Island, Illinois, Steve Sullivan earned his degree in photography from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale. He began his commercial photography career in 1991, and in 2007, he opened his studio in Erie, Illinois. From his studio in Erie, he continues to produce commercial photo work and also finds time for some personal creative endeavors.

On behalf of all of us at The Loft on Main, welcome to the Board of Directors, Steve!

From the Desk of The Loft President...

Happy Fall/Winter 2024/25!

The Board thought it would be a good idea to introduce myself. I've been on the Board for about two years and agreed to take on the role of President in mid-2024. I am not an artist, but I believe in the mission and work of The Loft and am happy to support it in this way.



I was born in Morrison in 1963 and am a product of the local public school system. I graduated from the University of Iowa in December 1984 with a B.S. degree in Mathematics. The first 20 or so years of my career were in Chicago/suburban Chicago as an actuary in various insurance organizations and consulting firms.

In October of 2006, I relocated with my then-current employer to Zurich, Switzerland. I lived there for almost five years before taking another position with the same company in their Hong Kong office. After two years in Hong Kong, I re-patriated to the United States to Los Angeles, with an affiliated insurance company.

In late 2017, my position was eliminated as part of a business decision / re-branding / reorganization. It was an extremely amicable departure, and on April 1, 2018, I moved back to Morrison. I live in the house where I grew up from age less than one month, having purchased it from my father in 2014.

Since I moved back to Morrison, I became active again in the Presbyterian Church, where I was baptized as an infant. I am currently a Ruling Elder, Treasurer and Organist. I am an active Rotary member and was President of the local club from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024. I was City Clerk from July 2020 until May 1, 2021. Since May 1, 2021, I have been Mayor of the City of Morrison.

The Loft needs to be vibrant, and to that end, I aim to work with the Board on keeping it continually refreshed, using 21st century tools to "get the word out" and recruiting volunteers, patrons and artists to keep our organization (and our balance sheet!) strong and growing.

A list of Board Members is at the end of this newsletter. Please contact me or any Board member with your ideas, suggestions and questions. The Loft is a community organization, not an elite club. We need YOU in any way you are willing and able to participate!

Scott Vandermyde

Scott Vandermyde, City of Morrison Mayor and President of The Loft Board of Directors

CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

November 13 & 20 - 4pm:

In our continued efforts to promote art education in our community, we are excited to have **Azaylia Ramos**, art teacher, offering to hold one hour classes during November and December. Participants grades 5 through adult will create pieces by combining 2D and 3D art. These classes are being provided by The Loft at NO COST to participants. Class size is limited to 10. Register by calling The Loft or stopping in during business hours.

November 17-24, Rock River Hospice Festival of Trees, Northland Mall, Sterling:

Several Morrison businesses (including The Loft) went together to create a basket valued at \$250 for the auction.



November 21, Third Thursday Coffee & Treats - 8am-10am:

On the Third Thursday of each month, The Loft opens its doors for the public to relax and enjoy a free cup of coffee and homemade treats. There is no scheduled agenda and no requirement to stay the entire time. It is simply a time to enjoy the company of others. Mary Ellen Brackemyer and Sharon Boyles provide treats, but others have added their specialties on occasion. Please join us!

DECEMBER

December 4 & 11 - 4pm:

With art teacher **Azaylia Ramos**, participants, grades 1-4, will use 2D and 3D art to create pieces with a seasonal theme. The class is FREE with all supplies provided. Class size is limited. Call to register.

December 7, Morrison Christmas Walk:

The Loft will be open 10am - 7pm. Clay ornaments will be available for painting from 1pm - 6pm in the back room. All supplies will be provided and the activity is FREE to all ages. It is especially fun when an entire family gets involved. Light refreshments will be available.

December 19, Third Thursday Coffee & Treats - 8am-10am

JANUARY

Date & Time TBD, Artist Interpretation Project:

Five of our artists have agreed to paint their interpretation of an old floral print recently discovered in an attic. In January, these artists - **Vernon Schaver, Joan Vander Bleek, Suzanne Stewart, Fran Plude, and Greg Przepiorski** - will come into The Loft to discuss their completed projects. Each artist uses different materials and techniques in creating their work. The viewing of the completed pieces will be a great opportunity to compare and contrast not just the materials selected, but the different interpretations of the same subject matter. The date and time of this event are to be determined, so keep an eye out for updates!

January 16, Third Thursday Coffee & Treats - 8am-10am

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 Marcia Haag at (815) 441-5860.

***REMINDER!* - The Loft on Main website is up and going!**
Shop by artwork or artist at:
theloftonmain.org

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



The Loft on Main Board of Directors

Scott Vandermyde, President

Everett Pannier, Vice President

Sharon Boyles, Treasurer

**Marcia Haag, Secretary &
 Volunteer Coordinator**

Ned J. Nesti Jr, Curator

Jim Mertes

Steve Sullivan

Joan Vander Bleek



Front page: Old Wild Birch painted by Vernon Schaver.
 Above: Square Tissue Box by Ed Hammelman; Mountain Hideaway by Fran Plude; Old Loggerhead by Cindy Ronan; Snowman Tray by Jim Cronk; Pink Angel by Sandy Zilz

Special Thank You to Our Patron Donors

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 Mick Welding
 Charles (Chick) & Becky West
 Josh & Kelly West
 Dr. Mark & Liz Woods
 Mark & Jean Zinnen

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



Holiday Gift Registry

The holidays are right around the corner! Stop in to complete and file your personal wish list of items available at The Loft on Main! If you would like to purchase something for someone else, but are at a loss for what they might like, simply give them a "Personal Wish List" card and ask that they come in to look around and complete it. Gift certificates are also available!

