

# FITCHBURG PRIDE

FITCHBURG'S OWN WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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## Park and art this Saturday

Arts festival joins Civic Days celebrations

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As children pop wheelies on their bicycles and stroll around pushing their doll carriages, there will be a lot to look at beyond the festivities of the doll and bike parade on Saturday.

Artwork from those participating in the Riverfront Revival of the Arts festival will be on display at the same time children partake in the doll carriage and bicycle parade at the park. Both events are part of the 2007 Civic Days celebration.

"It adds a whole new component to Civic Days," said Assistant to the Mayor Robert Pointbriand, who also serves as the chairman of the Civic Days committee. "We are really excited to have Hannah involved."

Recent Fitchburg High School graduate Hannah Massé came up with the idea for the art festival and then coordinated it essentially by herself.

"It was her whole idea to have the thing, she is an incredibly motivated kid," said Mark Ambrose, who runs the Youth Venture program at FHS

She was inspired after attending a summer art program at Cushing Academy in Ashburnham.

"They had a lot of art opportunities and so many things to offer, especially compared to FHS. I thought, 'How could we raise money for the FHS art program,'" said Massé.

Proceeds from the event will go to the high school's art program. Massé is asking for voluntary donations at the door, as well as holding a raffle and selling food. There is also a \$15 registration fee for participating artists.

The festival invites artists to exhibit their artwork, and sell it if they choose. Each vendor is given a table to set up whatever they would like to display.

According to Massé, the 15 entrants range in age level and medium from floral to jewelry, to watercolors to oil paintings.

"It is a pretty big spectrum," said Massé. "I am hoping for a couple more artists." The deadline to apply was last week, but Massé said they would allow people who show up that morning to participate.

"Not only artists, we want people who do it as a hobby to participate," said Massé.

She is an artist, but is not sure if she will display anything during the festival. Next fall she will attend the University of Vermont where she will study studio art.

"I really liked art when I was younger. I started taking classes at the high school," said Massé.

She really liked what the art programs at Cushing had to offer though, and wants Fitchburg to be able to offer this as well.

"We are always out of supplies. 2H pencils for sketches, sometimes we don't even have those. There are no erasers sometimes. The art teacher spends her own money on supplies," said Massé. "If we had more money we could do a lot more."

While Massé is hoping to raise money for the art program, she is more hopeful that the event will be well received by the community in its first year.

"It's not so much the money the first time. As long as the community gets a good response and enjoys it," said Massé. "It not only benefits the art program, it benefits the individual and the community."

The event was put together as Massé's venture through the Youth Venture Program, which is offered to students ages 12-20. Partnered with the United Way, venture teams are given grants of up to \$1,000 to start a club or organization that will benefit the community.

"It is all about the kids giving back," said Ambrose, who is the advisor to the program at FHS. "All of the money goes to the FHS art program."

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