

CONNECTION

Children's Art, Bird Election Add Creativity to Festival

An \$800 painting among rewards for voting for a bird.

Tuesday, April 26, 2011



For those with creativity in their fingertips, the Great Falls Spring Festival on May 1 will offer a bonanza of child-related and other art activities—and a prize valued at \$800.

The art comes three ways. You can watch Great Falls artists as they create new work. You can check out an exhibition of children's art from Forestville and Great Falls elementary schools. And if you are a child, you can grab crayons and take part in art activities that include creation of a large festival banner. Children who participate will get a free sticker featuring the logo for an election now taking place in Great Falls to select a town bird symbol.

The prize is an original oil painting created by Great Falls artist Hwa Crawford. It depicts a great blue heron trolling for fish near the Potomac River shoreline in Riverbend Park in Great Falls. The framed, 16X20-inch painting will go to a Great Falls resident picked at random. To be considered, you must vote during the Spring Festival for your choice of a bird to become the official symbol of Great Falls. Voters will also be eligible to win other prizes, including mugs made by local potters.

The bird election is a project conceived by the local art group Great Falls Studios in conjunction with the National Audubon Society, Forestville and Great Falls elementary schools and eight other local organizations. Great Falls Studios will have two tents near the gazebo on the Village Green.

The art activities at the Festival, including the election polling place, will be brought to you by 93 artists who live or work in Great Falls and are members of Great Falls Studios. The non-profit Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, which supports the visual arts in Great Falls, will also have a booth where children can create art. The two groups have been doing their best to make Great Falls an artful place, and at the Festival they'll be reaching out to you in hopes that you and your children become part of a Great Falls movement to nurture creativity and establish Great Falls as a regional center for the visual arts. The festival is sponsored by the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation and will take place on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Centre.



Donated Photo
Hwa Crawford's original oil painting 'Great Falls Blue Heron' is a prize with a value of \$800. It will be given to a visitor, picked at random, who votes in the Great Falls village bird election at the Great Falls Studios tents.



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