

Hoosick Falls area welcomes barn

quilts

31 handmade items meant as symbols of a rural revival

By Brittany Horn

Published 9:03 pm, Friday, August 29, 2014

Hoosick Falls

In a celebration of its rural culture, the Hoosick Armory, Youth Center and Community Coalition (HAYC3) will host a kickoff for its barn quilt trail on Saturday, showcasing 31 barn quilts around the Hoosick Falls area.

The barn quilts are wooden and handpainted with traditional quilt patterns, ranging in size from 4 to 8 feet wide.

They will be on display for the next two years, though Saturday marks the official unveiling of the communitywide project.

"As an organization, we are leading rural revival through art and community, so this project is part of that," HAYC3 Executive Director Aelish Nealon said.

The project took a year to coordinate and was sparked by Linda Fitzsimmons, a local business owner who works closely with the Northeastern NY Chapter of Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Fitzsimmons wanted to collaborate on a project that would benefit both the community and those fighting cystic fibrosis.

HAYC3 will also host many of the artists who created the quilts at the armory on Saturday, with live music by Martha vonShilgen; a lecture on Underground Railroad quilts by Noreen Hinton at 11 a.m.; and a poker run, in which drivers must stop at five different checkpoints to establish the best poker hand by the end of the drive.

While there is no cost to travel the barn quilt trail or attend opening events, participation in the poker run costs \$20 per driver, with an additional \$10 per passenger.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place.

For those interested in social media, an interactive map is available online, and a selfie contest with the quilts will be held. Entrants should tag their selfies with the hashtag #BQSelfie.

Winners will be chosen at random.

"We can do big things here, because it is such a caring place," Nealon said.

Printed maps will also be available at the HAYC3 Armory on Church Street for those looking to view the quilts.

The Hoosick Falls barn quilt trail is now a part of a nationwide trail stretching across the country. To locate other trails around the state and country, go to barnquiltinfo.com.

For more information on Saturday's event, contact the HAYC3 at (518) 686-9050 or by email at contacthayc3@gmail.com.

HAYC3 Barn Quilt Trail

Where: HAYC3 Armory on Church Street, Hoosick Falls

When: 10 a.m. to Noon Saturday

Details: Admission is free. Food will be available for purchase and maps will be available at the downtown location detailing the placement of the 31 quilt displays. Noreen Hinton's lecture will begin at 11 a.m.

Info: 686-9050