

Hoosick Falls to celebrate unveiling of barn quilts

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Pictured is Megan Walraed's illustrated map of the Hoosick area that displays the 31 locations of the Hoosick Barn Quilt Project. Not depicted is a second page that gives pictures and descriptions for each location. (Supplied photo)

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. -- The Hoosick Armory Youth Center and Community Coalition has been preparing for its unveiling of the Hoosick Barn Quilt Trail with the installation of 31 large wooden paintings of quilt squares on barns and prominent buildings throughout the area.

The task of quilting each piece together was bestowed to independent Hoosick Falls artist Megan Walraed, who illustrated a map incorporating every quilt piece location from North Petersburg to Buskirk.

Walraed said the map was an extensive project, totaling 26 hours of work. Walraed's illustration concluded the several months of work sponsoring and painting each installation since March.

"I love this quilt project because it shows what a tight-knit community Hoosick really is, and really ties us all together like patchwork," Walraed said. "Drawing such a large area on a small piece of watercolor paper really made me think of how appropriate this project is."

In the community spirit of the barn quilt project, HAYC3 is asking residents to join in the unveiling of the quilts, which will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30, at the HAYC3 Armory on Church Street in downtown Hoosick Falls.

The event is free, and includes complimentary copies of the map for people to conduct self-guided tours and a poker run that will allow drivers obtain a card every five quilt piece checkpoints, and turn them in at the end for the best hand. Drivers can also participate during their tour digitally at

<http://hayc3.org/bqmap> and on Instagram for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

The event will also include live jigs, hornpipes and waltz musical performances by Martha von Shilgen. The 120gallery90 will be open at the armory for HAYC3's very first quilt show featuring work by local quilters. A lecture on Underground Railroad quilts will be given at the armory at 11 a.m. There will also be opportunities to purchase food and meet the quilt project artists and quilters who will be working on demonstrations.

HAYC3 members and community volunteers hope the quilts grab the attention of the community. The unveiling is a way to ask the community to get involved.

"This really sheds a light on what we can do together as a community, and what (residents) can do to contribute," Walraed said. "Anything that I can do for the community and with my art -- I am glad to do it."

Visit hayc3.org for more information about the barn quilt project, or to learn about other upcoming events.

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