



Chris Reinoos/Daily Journal

The courtyard outside of Red Brick Boutique will be filled with pieces from at least five different artists Saturday during Ottertail's annual art fair.

## Courtyard soon to be filled with art

### Ottertail Art Fair will feature pieces on display and for purchase

By Chris Reinoos  
Daily Journal

With each passing year, businesses and community leaders in Ottertail get more and more behind the annual Courtyard Art Fair outside of Red Brick Boutique, according to boutique employee Angela Garcia.

The fair has become an anticipated summer tradition in Ottertail and this year's installment promises to be no exception.

The art fair will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the courtyard outside of Red Brick Boutique, which is housed in The Creamery, 107 West Main St. There will be at least five artists on display at the show, Garcia said.

Pieces will range from vintage jewelry to home decor and furniture to colorful paintings, among other things. Each artist will also have items for sale at the fair, according to Garcia.

Red Brick Boutique has partnered

with The Williams Company Store to host the event the past handful of years. Bringing this kind of show, featuring local artists, to Ottertail residents has been a treat for the organizers, including Garcia.

"I think it definitely gives people a reason to come into town," she said.

There will also be some art workshops taking place Saturday during the fair.

The fair is part of a larger annual event dubbed "The Gathering," hosted by Firestarters Worship Center. The church, also located in The Creamery, will host a 10-day event featuring worship, singing and dancing.

## N.D. boy found in water still critical

A 3-year-old boy, who was pulled from the water near the Breezy Point Resort Boathouse and Marina on Friday night, continued to be in critical condition Monday.

The Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office identified the boy as Emmitt Weigel of Napoleon, N.D.

Police were called to the resort about 7:32 p.m. to a report of a missing toddler.

Within minutes of the call, the boy was found unresponsive in the water near the shoreline by family members, according to the sheriff's department.

Emmitt was flown to Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis.

It is unknown how the child ended up in the water, the sheriff's department said. Foul play is not suspected.

Forum News Service

## Bikes: Owners against plan

From Page 1

The addition to the plan is to install an off-street sidewalk on Fir, beginning at the west end of the right turn lane just before Friberg, so pedestrians and some cyclists could use that rather than continuing on the street in the turn lane. There would also be a crosswalk added on the south side of the Fir and Friberg intersection.

"What we're proposing here is an improvement over what we have," said City Engineer Dan Edwards.

The council first amended a motion from the last meeting to move forward with the original plan. However, a vote to move forward with the updated plan Monday failed 5-3, with Anthony Hicks, Tim Rundquist and Ben Schierer voting in favor of the motion.

On June 18, the city sent 91 notices to property owners and residents living adjacent to Fir requesting comments about the potential for bike lanes in their area. The city received 14 responses via telephone and email before its July 7 meeting and an additional 10 comments after the last council meeting.

Eleven were in favor of dedicated bike lanes, though seven of them were not Fir residents; one wanted bike lanes with a separate pedestrian sidewalk; 12 opposed the bike lanes and wanted no changes.

Most recognized the importance of Fir as a major connecting route for all types of transportation, according to Edwards. Many opposed to the bike lanes commented on the lack of need because the parking lanes aren't used very much and doesn't affect the safety of bicycle or pedestrian use.

The original plan called for changes to on-street parking, which would have only been allowed on the north side of Fir from Park Street to Friberg, with no parking on either side of Fir from Union to Park. The Bicycle Master Plan group brought the idea forward to add bike lanes mostly because of timing with Fir already undergoing con-

struction this summer, so the pavement markings will need to be redone anyway.

After some council discussion, it opened the floor to public comments. Nine residents, most living along the affected area on Fir, spoke about their concern and reasons for not wanting the bike lanes. Concerns ranged from safety for a resident's grandkids having to cross Fir when they visit because of the proposed parking changes, to the inconvenience of losing parking, to the thought: "why should we fix what isn't broken?"

Scott and Lori Kvild are cyclists who've lived in their home on Fir for more than 20 years and said they've never had issues.

Jo Schmidt, who lives on Harmony Place just off Fir, said she rides her bike to the YMCA three times a week. "I've never felt unsafe," she said. "Right now, I don't see any problem the way it is."

Her thoughts on safety in the area were echoed by other residents.

Another potential solution brought up by some residents and council members was for cyclists to use nearby streets that are already designated bikeways, especially since some thought the amount of bicycle traffic on Fir didn't warrant the changes.

"You know guys, it's not worth it," resident Erik Leroy said. "There isn't that many bikers."

Jake Krohn, a Bicycle Master Plan volunteer, was the "lone voice for the bikers," he said, adding that he was glad the residents shared their thoughts at the meeting.

"We never put this idea out as a way to cause a fight," he said. "We saw this as an opportunity given another city project. We're trying to give people an alternative."

Not many cars park in the parking lanes on Fir, so "is there a better way to utilize that asset?" of a public space, Krohn said.

Maybe the bicyclists wouldn't win this battle, but he hopes Fergus Falls can do something great, he said.

## Kirkbride: Willey planning stop in FF

From Page 1

The Fergus Falls City Council received a written update Monday from developer Ray Willey, of Historic Kirkbride, regarding plans for the project, which includes eateries, apartments and a luxury hotel.

The group has a couple of hurdles with funding. It needs to get approval of the New Markets Tax Credit. The tax credit has received its \$60-million allocation this year, but it received many funding requests exceeding its allocation. The award is competitive. Historic Kirkbride should know the outcome in August.

The other issue is the \$4 million of state funding for the RTC may have some restricted use limitations.

Though Willey was not present at the council meeting, he was in Minnesota last week for a variety of meetings, including one with the State Historic Preservation

Office in St. Paul. That office will issue a letter stating that the demolition of the two non-contributing buildings, the new administration building and metal addition to the new powerhouse building, will not jeopardize either the state or Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

Willey toured the RTC last Friday to identify any maintenance concerns. He spotted a few water leaks which have caused damage and deterioration, so he will submit an assessment to the city for temporary repairs.

"I am concerned that additional water damage may occur as the weather begins to change soon," Willey wrote. "It is important to keep the building watertight throughout this interim period, in order to preserve what's there, prevent additional decay and avoid ancillary issues such as mold."

He was also concerned about a number of broken windows, vandalism and

stolen property from a recent break-in, and some partially secured doors. Willey wants to discuss a general security plan that could prevent further vandalism or thefts.

Willey spent a couple days recently visiting Traverse City, Mich., to tour the first Kirkbride facility that's been redeveloped. He gained ideas and had some questions answered by Traverse City developer Ray Minervini.

Also last week, Historic Kirkbride secured preliminary approval from two major hotel chains for establishing an upscale, branded hotel franchise at the RTC. The hotel consultant for the project is in discussions with a potential hotel operator.

Nothing has changed with the restaurants. They're planning a coffee/bagel shop, family-style pizza restaurant with game rooms, a sports bar and a barbecue restaurant. They're in early talks with a brew pub to secure that as the fifth tenant.

Willey touches base with representatives from the city of Fergus Falls during weekly conference calls to report on project specifics and exchange information. He plans to return to town again in August to pull together some of the necessary pieces to proceed with the project.

He wants to present Historic Kirkbride's plan going forward to the council in September. However, that is subject to the successful approval of mitigation of any outstanding issues.

The city and Historic Kirkbride entered into a letter of intent in July 2013 for the project. They are working toward a developer's agreement.

The Kirkbride building was completed in 1906 and was known as the Fergus Falls State Hospital. It closed in 2005. The city of Fergus Falls is tasked with finding a developer for the property or demolishing the building.

## Periwinkle: 'Business is awesome'

From Page 1

One portion of the store is dedicated entirely to different area vendors who rent and maintain their space. These vendors offer a plethora of different products, from children's games to clothing to vin-

tage items.

Periwinkle currently houses 12 vendors, and many more have come through the doors asking for space. Ellingson did not have the room for any vendors in her previous building.

Ellingson is also plan-

ning to use part of the building as a center to promote her design work. She is in the process of getting estimates on floor and wall work and hopes to have that part of the store going by the winter.

This is what can happen when you give a creative

person more room and different opportunities. Even if Ellingson was not considering this kind of move, she cannot imagine being back in her old building now.

"Business is awesome," Ellingson said. "It's exciting."

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