

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **The Carroll Arts Center's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Festival of Wreaths to go on in person and online**

The Carroll County Arts Council will celebrate the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of its signature holiday event, the annual Festival of Wreaths silent auction, from November 27 – December 6. The format of the event will look different this year due to COVID-19, but it is still a festive way to kick off the holiday season. The Arts Council plans to have an in-person display at the Carroll Arts Center from 10am – 7pm daily. Necessary safety precautions like limited capacity and face masks will be in place. To ensure that everyone can participate, the Arts Council is also excited to announce that the auction is also going mobile this year! Visitors will be able to view and bid on the wreaths from their smartphone or computer using Handbid, a silent auction platform, whether they are attending in-person or viewing at home.

The Festival of Wreaths is a holiday wonderland of creativity and generosity featuring a display of extraordinarily unique wreaths that range from whimsical, to wacky, to wonderful. In the past, wreaths have been adorned with a wide range of items and decorations including semi-precious gems, sock monkeys, computer mice, thumb tacks, eyeglasses, duct tape, Legos®, flip flops, painted crab shells, used auto parts, origami, wine corks, autographed sports memorabilia, duct tape, and even toilet paper rolls! They make great gifts or memorable seasonal décor for your home. Many also come with special items like gift cards to local businesses or tickets to local and regional attractions.

This festive fundraiser benefits the Arts Council and their mission to provide a variety of arts opportunities in Carroll County. “With the financial strain caused by COVID, this year’s Festival is even more vital to the health of the Arts Council” says Executive Director Judy Morley. “And since this year’s auction will be more accessible than ever, I’m hopeful that the holiday giving spirit will spread even more in our community!”

Both in-person visitors and those viewing from home must bid through the online auction on Handbid. Visitors to the in-person display are encouraged to download the mobile Handbid app on their smartphone before attending to ease the bidding process. Volunteers will be available at the Arts Center to help those without smartphones make their bids. All winning bidders will be required to pick up their wreaths in person at the Arts Center.

The CCAC will also be awarding 10 Audience Choice prizes. The public can vote for their favorites through an album that will be posted on the CCAC Facebook page, where the most reactions will decide the winners.

The auction will be available to preview online a few days before bidding opens on Friday, November 27 at 10 am. Bidding will close on Sunday, December 6 at 4 pm. The in-person display at the Arts Center will be open 10am – 7pm daily. This free event is sponsored by PNC Bank, the Carroll County Times, and New Windsor State Bank. For more information, call 410-848-7272 or visit [www.FestivalofWreaths.com](http://www.FestivalofWreaths.com).

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IMAGE CREDIT(S):

“Enjoy the Ride” by Candy Aaron; “Country Christmas” by Mona Becker; “Memories of Dad” by Shelby Jones and Mardee Curtis

CALENDAR LISTING (Please list under Holiday or related category)

Festival of Wreaths. Nov. 27 – Dec. 6, Daily 10 am - 7 pm (except Dec. 6, 10am – 4pm). A holiday wonderland of creativity and generosity. This event features more than 100 unique theme wreaths that range from whimsical to wacky to wonderful! The wreaths are sold through a silent auction that benefits the Arts Council. Visit in person or view and bid online! Free. Carroll Arts Center, 91 W. Main St., Westminster, MD 21157. 410-848-7272. [www.FestivalofWreaths.com](http://www.FestivalofWreaths.com).

The Carroll County Arts Council is located at 91 West Main Street in the magnificently renovated Carroll Arts Center, formerly the Carroll Theatre in downtown Westminster, MD. The art deco building now houses a 263-seat theatre, galleries, Gift Shop, classrooms, and offices. CCAC's mission is to enrich our community, both culturally and economically, by presenting, promoting, and supporting a wide variety of arts opportunities for our residents, visitors, and artists. For more information call 410-848-7272 or visit [www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](http://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org).