

MEDIA RELEASE

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Festival of Wreaths

The 26th Annual Festival of Wreaths at the Carroll Arts Center

Holiday live display and online auction running November 24 - December 3

The Carroll County Arts Council once again presents its signature holiday fundraising event, the annual Festival of Wreaths auction, from November 24 – December 3. It's free admission to visit the cheery display of over 100 uniquely handmade wreaths and holiday decor at the Carroll Arts Center from 10am – 7pm daily. Through HANDBID, an online auction platform, visitors can bid on these seasonal treasures with their smartphone in-person at the festival or bid from home!

The Festival of Wreaths is a holiday wonderland of creativity and generosity featuring a display of extraordinary wreaths and holiday art pieces that range from whimsical, to wacky, to wonderful. In the past, wreaths have been adorned with a wide range of items and decorations including gems, sock monkeys, computer mice, thumb tacks, paintbrushes, duct tape, Legos®, flip flops, seashells, auto parts, origami, wine corks, autographed sports memorabilia, 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, specialty food and beverages, merchandise, 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. All the entries are auctioned off online through HANDBID, an auction platform that allows users to bid either at the festival or from home. Visitors 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 when they visit the festival at the Arts Center. The top ten winners will win a certificate, a brass Carroll Arts Center ornament, and a Festival of Wreaths magnet. Voting closes on Saturday, December 2 at 7pm. Kids can also get in on the fun with Festival of Wreaths bingo!

This year's festival will also feature special theme nights throughout the week. Visitors that come dressed in accordance with the evening's theme can enter a drawing for prizes like Carroll Arts Center merchandise, movie passes, and more! The themes are Pajamas (Monday, November 27), Maryland Pride (Wednesday, November 29), and Ugly Sweaters (Thursday, Nov. 30).

Bidding opens on Friday, November 24 at 10am. Online bidding will close on Sunday, December 3 at 7pm. All auction winners will be able to pick up their items starting Monday, December 4. This free event is sponsored by the Carroll County Office of Tourism, WTTR, North Carroll Community School, and Visiting Angels. For more information call 410-848-7272 or visit 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, and classrooms. 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.

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IMAGE CREDIT(S):

(Entries from the 2022 festival)

“A Country Autumn” by Christy Spain

“Dragonfly and Cattails” by Nick Vincent

“Nature’s Wonder” by PSJ Orthodontics

“Unlock the Joy of the Season” by Karen Eppley

CALENDAR LISTING (Please list under Holiday or related category)

Festival of Wreaths. Nov. 24 – Dec. 3, Daily 10am - 7pm. A holiday wonderland of creativity and generosity. This event features more than 100 unique theme wreaths and seasonal artwork that range from whimsical to wacky to wonderful! The entries are sold through an online auction that benefits the Arts Council. Visit the display or view and bid online! Free admission. Carroll Arts Center, 91 W. Main St., Westminster, MD 21157. 410-848-7272. www.FestivalofWreaths.com.