

# ART SCENE

## NEW DIMENSIONS

The New Hope Arts Center is expanding its celebrated outdoor sculptural exhibit.

By GWEN SHRIFT  
STAFF WRITER

A sculptural population shift is underway in New Hope, but not to worry — the borough's guardian spirit, half dinosaur, half mastiff, is expected to stay on duty.

Several months ago, New Hope Arts Center executive director Carol Cruickshanks launched a new phase of the borough's outdoor sculpture exhibit, in place for 10 years in various configurations.

At the moment, eight large works are scattered around town, a collection that earned New Hope the top spot on a national design magazine's list of small-community art destinations in 2005, according to Cruickshanks.

Since the summer, she has been working to raise money for new installations, building on the legacy of the late Robin Larsen, arts center founder. A competition to augment future acquisitions is scheduled for the spring of 2014.

"This is the most important mission that I can fulfill," said Cruickshanks. "This is my special project."

During the decade that works have been on view, more than 60 have cycled in and out of the picture. Some were sold, such as "Running Black," Wendy Klemperer's metal sculpture of horses that ornamented the lawn at First Federal of Bucks County on West Bridge Street.

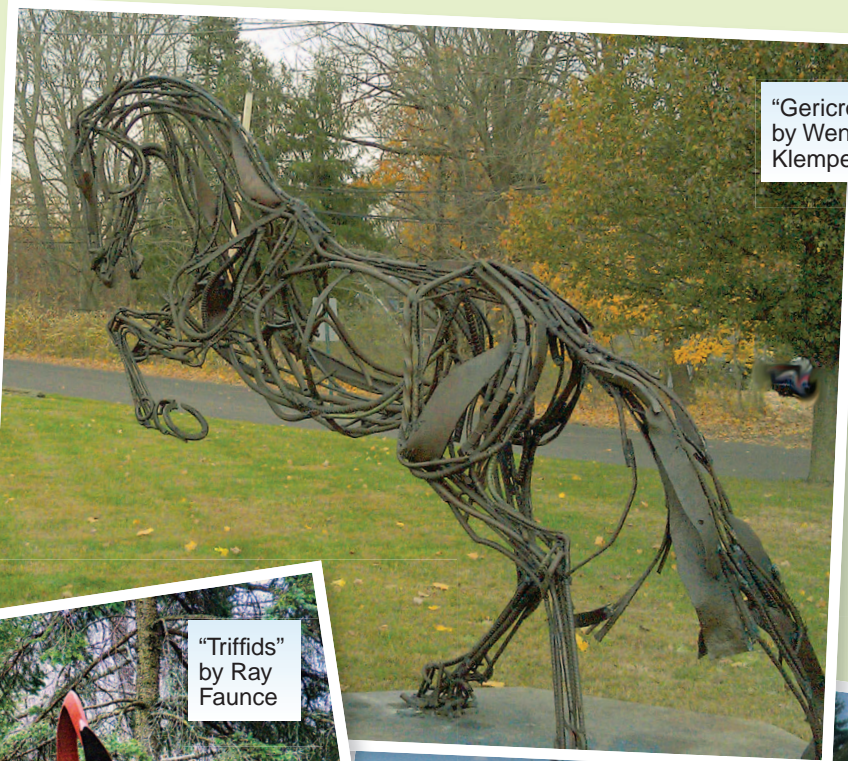
The bank requested another Klemperer, and the artist obliged with a rearing steed, "Gericroix," which she traveled from her Brooklyn studio to install last month.

"I assume her inspiration here was some battle horses that were either in a Gericault painting or a Delacroix painting," said Cruickshanks, who is an art historian. "We were thrilled when she came down and welded this into place."

Other monumental works include "Light Sieve" by Carl Billingsley on Stockton Avenue and Harry Gordon's craggy "Large Granite Arches" at Hardy Bush Way and Route 179. Pieces such as Ray Faunce's "Triffids," outside the Wedgewood Inn on West Bridge Street, and "In Search of Light" by Christoph Spath on the lawn of the New Hope Historical Society on South Main Street, have captured the imagination of townspeople and tourists alike.

But the best-known of all is "Boomer," Dana Stewart's immense fantasy creature that perches on the canal bank at the entrance to the borough on South Main Street.

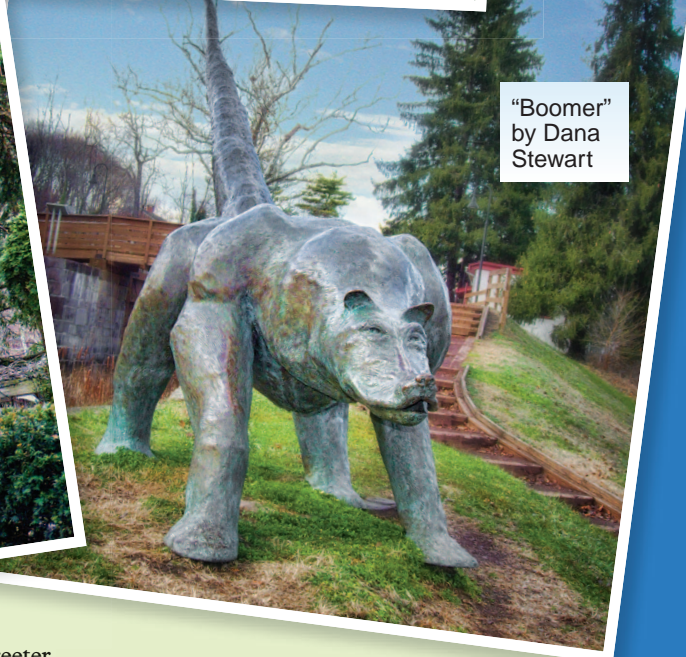
Whatever else changes, the 20-foot animal is expected to continue its



"Gericroix"  
by Wendy  
Klemperer



"Triffids"  
by Ray  
Faunce



"Boomer"  
by Dana  
Stewart

career as unofficial tourist-greeter. "It is likely that Boomer . . . will remain, because it is so popular," said Cruickshanks.

Larsen launched the first outdoor sculpture exhibit in what Cruickshanks recalls as "the halcyon days of public funding," when the project attracted contributions from state and regional sources such as the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.

Grants are harder to come by in 2013, making local contributions more significant to the exhibit's expansion. Art patrons Dorro, JaQuinley and Pamm Kerr have underwritten new works, according to Cruickshanks.

"After its period of stasis, we're actually moving forward," she said. "We may even have more than eight (sculptures), after the competition. We would like to have a dozen, if

we can manage it next spring."

Elsewhere this month, the emphasis is on miniatures. In a longstanding holiday tradition, local galleries present shows of small works priced affordably for gift-giving.

The Artists of Yardley have scheduled the "AOY 2014 Small Works Show" through Jan. 5. Reception is 6 to 9 p.m. Friday at 949 Mirror Lake Road in Lower Makefield.

The Canal Frame-Crafts Gallery in Washington Crossing continues its "Annual Holiday Small Works Show" through Dec. 28 with paintings and other artwork by more than 30 artists.

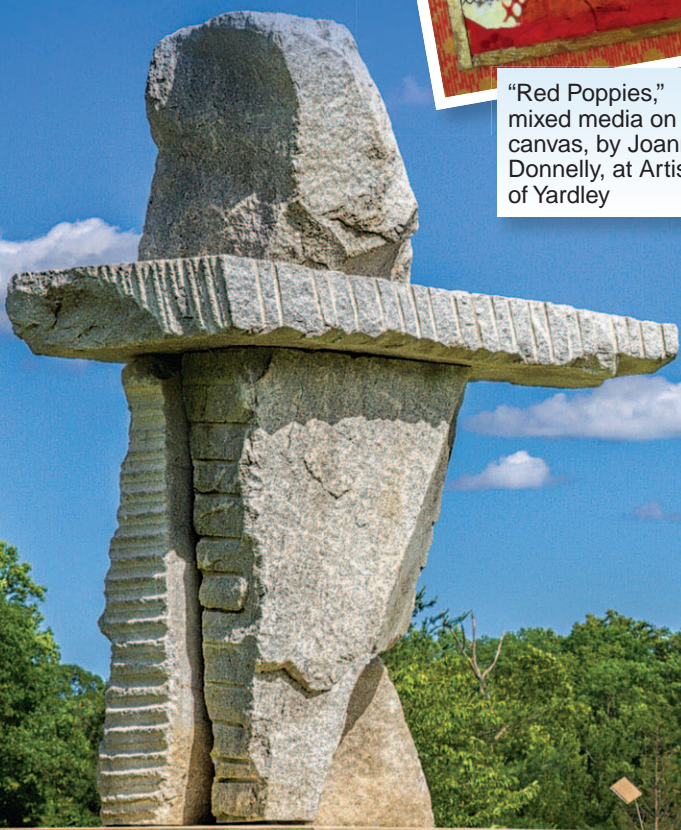
In New Hope, the Gold Light Gallery runs "Holiday Small Work & Print Show" through Jan. 5, with contributions from members of the artists' cooperative. Reception: 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at 30 W. Bridge St.

A few blocks away, the Bucks County Gallery of Fine Art holds a "6 by 6 Holiday Juried Exhibit and Sale" (that's 6 inches by 6 inches) of works by artists from across the county through Dec. 30. Reception is noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at 77 W. Bridge St.

Gwen Shrift is a feature writer at Calkins Media. Phone: 215-949-4204. Email: gshrift@calkins.com.



"Red Poppies,"  
mixed media on  
canvas, by Joanne  
Donnelly, at Artists  
of Yardley



"Large  
Granite  
Arches"  
by Harry  
Gordon



THE INTELLIGENCER

B1

LOCAL

TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 3, 2013

## What's Up

### Today

**"Anything Goes" auditions.** 8 to 9:30 p.m. Neshaminy Valley Music Theatre. Be prepared to sing and dance. Neshaminy High School, 2001 Old Lincoln Highway, Langhorne. Information: 215-860-1584.

**Feasterville Rotary.** 8 to 9 a.m. Looking for new members. Join Rotarians for breakfast at Suburban Diner, 14 W. Street Road, Feasterville. Information: 215-355-2121.

**Life Force Cancer Support Group.** 7 p.m. For cancer patients and their families. Aria, ground-floor conference room, 200 Oxford Valley Road, Falls. Information: 215-612-4300.

**Winterfest 2013.** 6:30 to 9 p.m. Sellersville Borough event. Santa arrives by firetruck at Sellersville Firehouse for tree lighting. Other highlights: Main Street trolley rides collecting Pennridge FISH food donations; St. Michael's Lutheran Church live nativity, 25 E. Church St.; St. Paul's United Church of Christ's live steel band, 104 Green St.; Sellersville Museum Christmas Tree Forest Exhibit, Church Street; Sellersville Theater holiday entertainment, refreshments. 24 W. Temple Ave. All events and trolley, free. Information: 215-257-5075.



### Tomorrow

**The Gifts of Advent.** 7 p.m. Wednesday and Dec. 11 and 18. Weekly respite from the holiday frenzy to refresh the soul. Themes: Wednesday, the Gift of Patience; Dec. 11, the Gift of Speech and Silence; Dec. 18, the Gift of Hope. St. John Lutheran Church, 1203 Pine Grove Road, Lower Makefield. Information: 215-295-1603.

**Christmas Tours at Historic Fallsington.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday. 4 Yardley Ave., Fallsington. Cost: \$7; \$3 children. To reserve: 215-295-6567.

## 100 YEARS AGO

### School to get lighting

The Doylestown School Board, which has had under consideration for some time plans for lighting and furnishing the auditorium, anteroom, principal's room and hallways of the new school building, on Monday night awarded the contract for electric light fixtures to a Philadelphia firm for \$300. They still hold under consideration the awarding of the contract for seating accommodations. The auditorium will require at least 580 chairs, and the outlay will total over \$600. When the improvements are completed, however, Doylestown will not need to take a back seat to any town of its size in the matter of school buildings.

— A Dec. 4 news item as printed in the Newtown Enterprise of Dec. 6, 1913