

Art for all

Quabbin Art Association hosts first take away

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BELCHERTOWN – Much like the giving tree, volunteers from the Quabbin Art Association gave back to the community in the form of its first art take away at the memory tree on the Belchertown Common last weekend.

With art supplies and work hanging from the tree in sealed bags, members of the community were encouraged to come to the tree and take a free piece of art.

The association's president, Denise Fontaine, said there were over 250 donations hanging from the paint tree throughout the day on Sunday. Donations ranged from felted objects, photography, paint sets and many others.

Fontaine explained how the idea came to be a reality.

"During the pandemic, I participated in a call and response with an artist from Florida. For two weeks, we created art and made a response, going back and forth. During one of our Zoom calls, I asked her about her pieces and she told me she got it from a take away," Fontaine said. "I liked the idea so much that we decided to do it our own event."

She added that the membership of about 50 people made the event possible, volunteering their time to make the donations as well as help hang them on the tree.

"Despite the pandemic, despite the fact we couldn't get together, people have been renewing their memberships," she said. "These people are terrific volunteers. They've helped set this up and shown such generosity."

Vice President of the association, Susan Shea, said the event served to connect people, while abiding by COVID-19 guidelines.

"It's a way to keep the members of the association connected and members of the community," Shea said. "That's part of our mission – to provide the community with art."



Various artwork and supplies were available for people to take from the pine tree on the Belchertown common last weekend.



Quabbin Art Association hosted its first art take away last weekend, providing free art supplies and items for the community to take for free.

Randi Shenkman said she put art on the tree in the form of an art kit.

"I put up packets with examples of my art and a kit with crayons or colored pencils," she said. "There is something here for kids and adults."

Emily LaBarre and her children went to lunch in town when they stumbled upon the event.

"We were just passing through and walked over to see what was going on," she said. "I hadn't heard of this before, but this is really nice."

PHOTOS BY MELINA BOURDEAU

Visitors to the tree on the Belchertown common look at art to select as part of the Quabbin Art Association's art take away last Sunday.



Seven-year-old Killian LaBarre shows his selection of free art from the tree on the Belchertown Common during Quabbin Art Association's art take away on Sunday.