

EVENT

Days kicks off Downtown Racine



Jeff Ward

free admission. A free hands-on art project will be offered from 4 to 8 p.m. The third annual International Peeps Exhibition showcasing the fluffy, sugar-coated marshmallow candy in different exhibit scenes will open. Visitors can vote for their favorite Peeps creation and decide who will win the coveted PEEPls Choice Award.

■ Artists Gallery, 401 Main St., will hold an opening reception for

new member artists from 6 to 9 p.m.

■ Hot Shop Glass, 239 Wisconsin Ave., will offer glass blowing demonstrations from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

■ Dover Flag & Map, 323 Main St., will have nano bug races.

■ Night Wing will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. at Evelyn's Club Main, 331 Main St.

■ Envi, 316 Main St., will be open with its new spring art series featuring work by local artists.

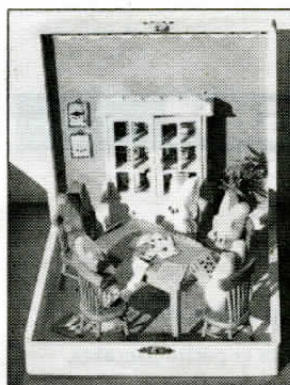
ART

Peeps exhibit opens Friday at Racine Art Museum

RACINE — The third annual "International Peeps Competition" opens Friday, April 6, at the Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St. This untraditional exhibition that showcases the fluffy, sugar-coated marshmallow Peeps draws thousands of visitors to the museum during its two-week run.

This year's exhibition, which continues through April 22, features 59 pieces made by more than 100 artists, including a work created by an entire Racine Girl Scout troop. "Chicks Dig Diamonds," "Hippie Peeps" and "Lady Gaga's Peep Collection" are among names of the exhibits.

Judged by an expert panel based on creativity and best use or representation



"Peepshead" by Catherine Niederehe of West Allis was featured in the 2011 Peeps exhibit at the Racine Art Museum.

of Peeps, prizes are awarded for first and second places as well as honorable mentions in adult, teen and children's categories. In addition, one artist will take home the coveted PEEPls Choice Award where the community votes for their favorite creation.

On Friday, April 6, the Racine Art Museum has extended hours from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and free admission in conjunction with First Fridays. A free hands-on art activity will be held from 4 to 8 p.m.

Regular museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon

to 5 p.m. Sunday (closed Mondays and holidays). Admission is \$5 for adults, and \$3 for youth ages 12-18, full-time students and seniors 63 and older. There is no charge for children 11 and younger.

Studio tours

between artists and arts groups in Racine and Kenosha, Fritchen and Schafer said. The tour is one of many collaborations that have grown out of the formation of Art Matters in 2010, through the efforts of the Wisconsin Arts Board.

"Artists in both communities have been working together for some time, but are doing so even more so now," Fritchen said. The networking, sharing of resources and building of audience and cultural tourism that have resulted from the work of Art Matters is especially important today, when resources for the arts is so limited, she said.

Organizers plan to make the tour an annual event and, while they are pleased with last year's turnout of about 500 people, they are hoping to increase that number as well.

"It is definitely growing," Fritchen said. "And that's very cool."

Artists Gallery exhibit shows artwork by new members

RACINE — Artists Gallery, 401 Main St., will feature artwork by new members in April. An opening reception will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 6, during First Fridays. The show will continue through April 29.

"We really have an outstanding group of talented new artists for 2012," said Paula Kalke, gallery co-director. "We have some familiar names joining us, plus some that bring us work in a medium or a technique never seen in the gallery before. We are very excited to be showing their work and



Sandy Sheahan's wood bowl

having them being a part of Artists Gallery."

New members are Joy Boatwright, fabric and fiber; Brian Breider, ceramics; Aurora Contreras, watercolors; Elise Herout, basketry; Craig Miller, oriental art; Sandy Sheahan,

wood turner; Jan Thompson, watercolors; and Robert Schnack, photography on canvas and stainless steel.

Artists Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. There is no admission fee.