

# Just Peeping around

Readers sho  
Peeps displays

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Is there anything Peeps CAN'T do? We asked Kenosha News readers to get creative with the iconic pastel marshmallow candies.

And you didn't disappoint us, proving once again that Peeps are much more than Easter Basket filler.

The third annual Kenosha News Peeps Contest received entries ranging from a Peeps Day at the Beach crafted by a mother-and-daughter team to a Peeps portrait based on "The Royal Dog" by artist Romero Britto.

Readers sent Peeps under the sea, to political meetings and even under the roads (where Peeps create our potholes!).

## This year's entries

■ **"The Royal Peep"** — Patty Hall, 35, of Mount Pleasant was inspired to create her painting during a vacation.

"Ten years ago, I was in Miami visiting my friend, Amy. We were wandering around in Miami Beach when we came upon an art gallery that looked fun. We went in, and I fell in love instantly with the artwork. The artist is Romero Britto, and I have been a huge fan of his art since that time," she said.

"At last year's Peep contest in Racine, the idea struck me that I should do a Peeps rendition of a Britto art piece. After going over his artwork, I chose to make his piece 'The Royal Dog' into 'The Royal Peep.' I sketched out the entire piece on canvas with pencil, and then used glossy acrylic paints. It was tedious work, but I enjoyed the process of making it."

■ **"Mt. Peep Olympus"** — Twin brothers Gabe and Jed Johnson, 8, of Kenosha created their Peeps art project, a mountain called "Mt. Peep Olympus," after basing it on a book they were reading about ancient battles.

■ **"The Real Reason for Potholes"** — Darcy Matus, 53, of Kenosha, says, "My inspiration came when my husband Keith and I were on our way to a play at the Racine Theatre Guild in February. I had read that the Racine Art Museum was having a Peeps art contest and was telling him I was considering entering. We hit a mass of potholes and commented to each other that we were dodging them all the way.

"While driving, we joked that there were a bunch of Peeps under the road furiously making all those potholes."

And that's how she came to create a scene of Peeps secretly making potholes under the road. She carved her creation out of Styrofoam and did a faux rock finish on it to resemble a street.

■ **"Happy Peepster!"** — Helen Berge-



**"Peep World" was created by staff and residents at Grande Prairie Health & Rehab in Pleasant Prairie. Ashely Knutter, an activity aide, was the mastermind behind the project.**



**Darcy Matus calls her creation "The Real Reason for Potholes."**

son, 7, of Kenosha said of her Peeps creation: "The large bunny Peeps looked really yummy, so I decided to make him the Easter Bunny!"

■ **"A Sneak Peep"** — Her big sister, Hanna Bergeson, 9, loves going to the movies. So she sent her Peeps to the movies in her creation. "It's always fun to see the previews for new movies coming out soon," she said, noting that the Peeps are enjoying some movie trailers in "A Sneak Peep."

■ **"VEEP Peeps"** — 13-year-old Marie Christenson of Somers — already a Peeps Contest veteran — this year went a political route with her Peeps creation. "VEEP Peeps" has three U.S. vice presidents featured: Joe Biden, Dick Cheney and Al Gore.

To create her Peeps work, Marie used five different colored Peeps, acrylic paint, duct tape, stickers, the Internet for quotes from each VEEP, hot glue and spray glue.

(The quotes attributed to the politicians are: "You know, we're going to control the insurance companies," Joe Biden; "Except for the occasional heart attack, I never felt better," Dick Cheney; and "During my service in the United States Congress, I took the initiative in creating the Internet," Al Gore.)

■ **"Peeps Kenosha Common Council"** — Mary Rugg, 59, of Kenosha has her Peeps "doing the People's business at a Peeps Kenosha Common Council meeting," she said. "I like to do different crafts and thought it would be fun to do a humorous take on council meetings."

■ **"Peep Holes"** — Laura Lehman of Kenosha also chose a road repair theme, though her Peeps are helping by repairing potholes, not creating them!

"My theme this year is something almost everyone can relate to after our harsh winter," she said. "My 'Peep Holes' work is complete with a Jeep stuck in a 'peep hole,' workers in construction vests, a manhole cover (with ice around it) and a 'Peep' snowbank on the curb with garbage and soda cans. We all can also relate to the garbage left behind after the snow melts."

■ **"Easter Bonnet"** — Tara Schmidt, 54, of Racine was inspired by the Judy Garland movie "Easter Parade," which "made me think of doing an Easter bonnet."

■ **"Peeps Ahoy"** — Colin Hartley, 5, and his dad Miles, 35, "both like to sail and thought that our Peeps might like it as well!"

# ow off their creative s just in time for Easter

## Kenosha News Peeps Contest

**Judges:** Kenosha News graphic artists Bridget Holtz and Bree McMahon

**Their comments:** "We had a fun time judging these Peep-tastic creations. Everyone did a great job and used their Peeps in many creative ways!"

**The winner: "Peep World" by the Grande Prairie residents** — "We love the creative use of the Peeps, especially as the background. Every time you look at it, you see a new way the Peeps are being used. Great job!"

**Second place: "The Real Reason for Potholes" by Darcy Matus** — "There were multiple pothole-related creations, but we believe this one showed it best. Really liked the concept and how she showed the Peeps under- and above-ground."

**Third place: "VEEP Peeps" by Marie Christenson** — "We enjoyed the details, from the patriotic Peeps with their flags to the comments and photos from the 'veeps.'"

**The prizes:** Our three winners will receive Peeps Prize Packages — including gift certificates of \$100, \$50 and \$25 to the official Peeps website ([www.PeepsandCompany.com](http://www.PeepsandCompany.com)) — donated by the Just Born Co. that makes Peeps.

**Everyone's a winner:** Everyone who entered the contest gets a Kenosha News T-shirt. **You can pick up your shirt at the front desk of the Kenosha News starting April 28.** (The Easter Bunny needs time to replenish his T-shirt stock!)

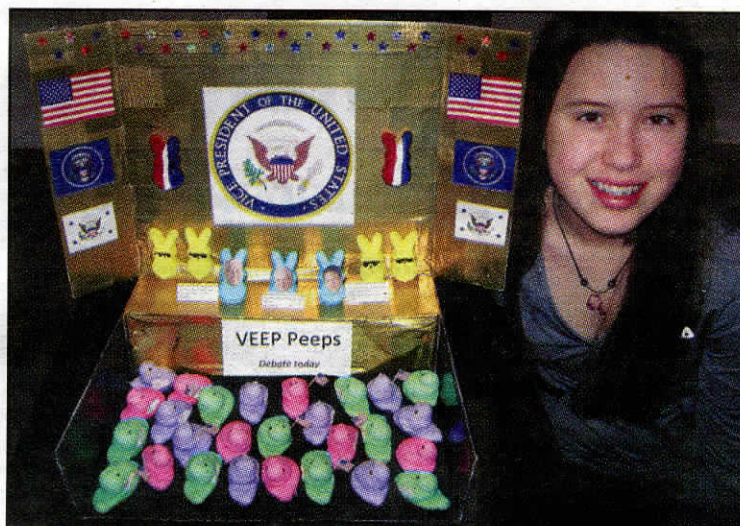
■ **"Peep Kabobs"** — Cindy Soens of Kenosha said, "This is my first try at Peeps art. When I was thinking of an idea for the Peeps, I was thinking spring flowers and rainbows, but then it hit me, 'Peep Kabobs!' I hope I don't get eliminated for cruelty to Peeps!"

The grill, she said, "is a big Easter egg, the charcoal is made from plastic Easter eggs, and the kabobs are the Peeps."

■ **"Peep World"** — This piece was created by staff and residents at Grande Prai-



Cindy Soens skewered the popular Easter candies for her "Peep Kabobs."



Marie Christenson, 13, poses with her "VEEP Peeps," depicting Joe Biden, Dick Cheney and Al Gore.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

rie Health & Rehab, 10330 Prairie Ridge Blvd. in Pleasant Prairie. Ashely Knutter, an activity aide, is credited as "the mastermind behind our Peeps creation."

■ **"The KAC Man"** — To help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Kenosha Achievement Center, 1218 79th St., KAC participants created the KAC logo using Peeps. The artists are Cassie Maze, Debra Carlin, Patricia Flannery, Sylvia Valadez, James Schmelling, Patrick Cole, Marty Mathis, Sam Willie, Tom Ficcadenti, Heather Krueger, James Brock, Brenda Jass and Nicole Plowman. Their ages are 23-63.

■ **"Peeps Day at the Beach"** — The mother-and-daughter team of Delaney Champine, 9, and Renee Krause of Trevor worked together to fashion "Peeps Day at the Beach."

"We glued scrapbook paper to a cardboard box, made some of our own beach props — such as the fishing pole, kite, first-aid box and, using mini popsicle sticks, the beach chair and the lifeguard chair. We then added real sand and set up our Peeps enjoying a nice warm day at the beach," Renee said.

■ **"Newborn Peeps"** — Eva Ness of Pleasant Prairie sent in a recipe for Peeps in a chocolate nest.

You need: a 10-ounce bag of marshmallows, half a cup of butter, food coloring, half a box of All Bran Cereal, one cup of shredded coconut, 1.5 cups of broken thin-stick pretzels and a bag of hard-shell chocolate egg candies.

Melt and mix together the marshmallows and butter and color the mixture brown (using red and green food coloring mixed together). Then stir in the cereal, coconut and pretzels. Drop onto a buttered pan and allow to set for five minutes. (Make each "nest" using a third-cup measuring cup for size.)

After the nests are set, put two candy eggs in the center and set a Peep candy on top, pushing down until the Peep sticks.

Let cool before moving the nests. This should make 12 nests.

■ Finally, I worked again this year with my fellow "Peeps artists" Karen Sorensen and her daughter, Hannah, to craft our own Peeps creation — "Peep-

## Peeps Exhibition

**What:** Racine Art Museum's fifth Annual Peeps Exhibition

**When:** On display through May 4

**Where:** Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St. in downtown Racine

**Free First Friday:** Museum admission is free 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. May 2 as part of downtown Racine's First Friday event. (Regular museum admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens (over age 62), \$3 for young adults (12-18) and full-time students and free for children under age 12.)

**Vote:** Visitors can vote for their favorite Peeps creation to win the coveted "PEEPle's Choice Award."

**Information:** [www.ramart.org](http://www.ramart.org)

See more Peeps displays at [www.kenoshanews.com](http://www.kenoshanews.com).

ton Abbey" — which was not eligible to win any prizes in our Kenosha News contest but was entered in the Racine Art Museum's annual International Peeps Competition. (Where it also will not win anything.)

We chose to dramatize the death of beloved "Downton Abbey" character Matthew, re-creating his accident scene complete with an ambulance.

This scene — featuring Peep servants around a fountain, waiting to serve the lord and lady of the manor — also answers a longstanding question: What color is Peeps blood? (Red; bright red; the kind of red that comes out of a nail polish bottle.)

In fact, that's what draws Hannah Sorensen to Peeps art projects each year: The chance to let the Peeps carnage go wild.

(Remember, kids: "It's just candy and no one gets hurt.")

*Thanks everyone for entering our contest, and we hope you all get to Racine to see this year's art museum contest. There's always something surprising that will have you saying, "I didn't think Peeps could do that!"*