

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Tuesday, July 15, 2025



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New sculptures unveiled on Pop Warner Rail Trail in Springville

July 25, 2024

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SPRINGVILLE – For those walking along the Pop Warner Rail Trail in Springville, five new sculptures by three different artists were recently installed for people to enjoy. The sculptures were officially unveiled during the Shakespeare and Sculptures event, hosted by Springville Center for the Arts, on Thursday, July 18.



A statue created by Sarah Fonzi was unveiled on the Pop Warner Rail Trail in Springville during a ceremony on July 18. The piece of public art is one of five new statues along the section of the Rail Trail named Sculpture Alley.

The five new sculptures are on a section of the Pop Warner Trail called "Sculpture Alley," which is the section near Peerless Winsmith Inc. The five sculptures brings the total along Sculpture Alley to seven, with two previously installed sculptures created by artist Brian Pfeiffer.

The first sculpture was created by Sarah Fonzi, which features a series of tubes connected in various directions that people can look through. Each pipe gives someone a different viewpoint, which Fonzi said symbolizes the different views people could see on a train.

"The intersections where it used to be this railroad's path where things and people were traveling through and now it's a place still for passing through. You are on a rail train and look out and see this view or that view so as you pass through, it can have a different sightline or vision through each of the different pipes," Fonzi said. "It kind of mimics the materials of the railroad tracks itself and as you look through it, you kind of catch a glimpse of the horizon or some light, just like the train coming around the bend and hopefully on a windy day might whistle like a train."

The next two sculptures along the path were created by Rich Federowicz. The first sculpture features a variety of tools from train operation put together into a piece of public art.

"The inspiration was actually the labor force and the railroad tools that they used and the heavy iron pieces that held the rails down and interacted together," Federowicz said. "I also wanted something that would stand out because of the length for kids or anyone that wants to interact with it."

The second sculpture is a round, blue piece of art that Federowicz said symbolizes the water towers that used to be used to cool steam engines. Federowicz also expressed his appreciation for SCA and Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail for the opportunity to have his sculptures on the Pop Warner Rail Trail and the added appeal it will have for anyone using the trail.

"It's an abstract piece that is supposed to represent the movement of water; a circular plain and then down the legs," Federowicz said.

The final new sculptures were by Matthew Retzlaff. Retzlaff wanted to create a whimsical piece along the Rail Trail, so he created a moon and stars sculptures across from each other, made out of recycled materials. To fit with the theme of the Pop Warner Rail Trail, Retzlaff said he did include some railroad tools or parts in his sculptures.

"I wanted something a little more whimsical, something that represented nature," Retzlaff said. "Typically I work with all reclaimed tools, pretty much everything donated and this is what I got."



Rich Federowicz stands with one of his unveiled sculptures along the Pop Warner Rail Trail.