

RESIDENT FEATURE



THE HEART BEHIND THE CANVAS:

Celebrating the Armonk Outdoor Art Show

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY PINSKY STUDIO

or more than six decades, the Armonk Outdoor Art Show has been more than just an annual event—it's a cherished tradition that unites a community. Organized by the Friends of the North Castle Public Library, the show began in 1961 as a modest gathering of local artists displaying their work on the lawn of the Armonk Methodist Church. What started as a small-town initiative has blossomed into a nationally recognized fine art show that draws artists and visitors from all over the country.

The Art Show has grown into a cornerstone of Armonk's identity, attracting thousands of attendees each year who come to celebrate creativity in its many forms. The event features an impressive variety of artwork, from painting and sculpture to photography, jewelry, and mixed media. Yet, it's not just the art that makes this event special—it's the people. Behind every canvas, sculpture, and installation is a story, and behind the show itself is a community united by a shared passion for the arts.

At the heart of this incredible effort is Nancy Rosner, Managing Director of the Armonk Outdoor Art Show, along with a dedicated executive committee, whose members have collectively served as show volunteers for decades. Nancy's connection to the show runs deep, as does her love for the community it serves. "The Art Show has grown immensely over the years, but what has remained constant is its purpose," Nancy explains. "It's always been about connecting people—through art and through the relationships built around it."

Nancy describes the Art Show as a collaborative effort that relies on the support of more than 300 volunteers each year. These volunteers handle everything from artist jurying to organizing family activities, ensuring that the event runs smoothly. "The commitment from our volunteers is truly extraordinary," Nancy says. "Many of them have been involved for years, and their dedication is a big part of why the show is so successful."

The Art Show directly benefits the Friends of the North Castle Public Library, Inc. Every year, all proceeds from the Art Show support the North Castle Public Library, funding vital programs and services that enrich the community. These include educational and entertainment programs for all ages, the Armonk Players theater group and more.

The Art Show is not only a celebration of art but also a major boost to the local economy. Each year, the event brings thousands of visitors to Armonk, creating a ripple effect that benefits nearby restaurants, shops, and other businesses. The town transforms into a vibrant hub of activity, with a festive atmosphere that keeps visitors coming back year after year.

"It's amazing to see how the Art Show positively impacts the community," Nancy shares. "It's not just about the art—it's about bringing people together and creating lasting memories. The energy and excitement are contagious."

In addition to its impact on the community, the Art Show has gained a national reputation for excellence. Artists apply from across the country for the chance to showcase their work, and the jury process ensures that only the highest-quality pieces make it to the show. This year, attendees can expect to see work from approximately 160 artists, spanning a wide range of styles and mediums.

One of the most beloved aspects of the Art Show is its accessibility. While the art on display is often museum-quality,



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the show remains warm and inviting, welcoming art enthusiasts and curious first-timers alike. Families with children can enjoy hands-on art activities, adding an interactive element to the experience.

Looking ahead to its 63rd year, the Armonk Outdoor Art Show continues to evolve while staying true to its roots. This year's event promises to be as inspiring as ever, with a dynamic lineup of artists, engaging activities, and the same community spirit that has defined the show since its inception.

"Whether you're an art collector, a casual admirer, or just

looking for a fun day out, there's something for everyone at the Art Show," Nancy says. "It's a chance to connect with the community, discover new artists, and be inspired."

Mark your calendars for September 27 and 28, 2025, and join us in celebrating the creativity, collaboration, and community spirit that make the Armonk Outdoor Art Show an event like no other.

For more information or to get involved as a volunteer, visit www.armonkoutdoorartshow.org.



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