

## Work from 22 Racine, Kenosha artists to be displayed at Hotel Verdant

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RACINE — Hotel Verdant is set to have 22 extra local ties to the community on display when it opens to the public later this summer.

The Racine Art Museum and ArtRoof partnered to curate a permanent art collection of original artwork by 22 Racine- and Kenosha-area artists for Hotel Verdant in Downtown Racine.

This collection will be on display throughout the main floor lobby and bookshelves, the elevator lobbies of the second, third and fourth floors and the presidential suite.

The Hotel Verdant Permanent Art Collection represents some of the leading artists in Racine and Kenosha across various career stages.

Dominion Properties, the developer of Hotel Verdant, considered artwork from local artists that

matched the hotel's theme and aesthetic, among other criteria.

Dominion selected the final pieces for the permanent collection after two rounds.

Dominion Properties Development Project Manager Emily Garofalo said one reason the developer made this initiative was "to have everything sourced locally and not have something trucked in or shipped in."

Another reason was to be a good neighbor and give artists the opportunity to tell friends and family that they have art on display at a hotel down the street.

"We're excited for the public to be able to come and look at it when we open," Garofalo said.

Ten represented artists are past recipients of a RAM Artist Fellowship Award — a prestigious program that fosters artists' continued artistic and professional development.

- The following artists and their mediums are to be featured:**
- René Amado, photography
  - Lisa Marie Barber, painting
  - Jerrold Belland, painting
  - Lisa Bigalke, graphics and embroidery
  - Trace Chiodo, photography
  - Martha Coaty, photography
  - Deedee Dumont, sculpture
  - Justin Gottfredsen, ceramics
  - Nate Hunter, ceramics
  - Jarvis Lawson, photography
  - Brad Lee, sculpture
  - Diane Levesque, painting
  - Alex Manilli, ceramics
  - Holly Wolf-Mattick, glass
  - Dennis Motl, wood
  - Amanda Cosgrove Paffrath and Dan Swland, glass
  - Bill Reid, sculpture
  - Jim Sincok, photography
  - Harold Solberg, wood
  - Scott Terry, mixed media



**HOTEL VERDANT PERMANENT ART COLLECTION**  
 Ruth Grotenrath's work, "Table and Chair," completed in 1984, is casein on Japanese paper. A reproduction of the work from RAM's permanent collection will be displayed in Hotel Verdant's guest rooms.

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## Caledonia to get first electric vehicle charging station

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CALEDONIA — The village is getting what is believed to be its first public electric vehicle charging station.

At its meeting June 15, the Caledonia Village board unanimously approved a building, site and operations plan to construct an electric vehicle charging station in the southeastern portion of the parking lot at Pilot Travel Center, 13712 Northwestern Ave.

Racine County has several public electric vehicle charging stations, but none have been installed in Caledonia so far.

The existing locations include Racine City Hall, 730 Washington Ave., Racine; Porcuro Ford, 6001 Washington Ave., Mount Pleasant; Ziegler Hyundai, 13113 Washington Ave., Mount Pleasant; Aurora Medical Center, 13250 Washington Ave., Mount Pleasant; and Cigo Auto Truck Plaza, 611 S. Sylvania Ave., Yorkville.

More are coming to the City of Racine, as well: Per the Hotel Verdant development agreement with the City of Racine, Hotel Verdant is anticipating installing two vehicle charging stations on Fifth Street. Eight charging stations have already been installed in the Civic Centre Ramp, 501 Lake Ave.

The location at Pilot is currently used as general parking for the business, but it is to provide four parking stalls for the charging of electrical vehicles.

There will be two electric charging stands. Each stand will have two charging cables. To provide electricity to the site, Pilot Travel Center will be installing a transformer.

"The village is happy to see the first EV charging station within our borders," Village Administrator Kathy Kasper said. "It will be good addition for the EV infrastructure that is needed to support the use of electric vehicles. It is great to see local businesses be responsive to traveler needs by installing this station."

**'Safe, reliable EV travel'**

Tim Langenkamp, vice president of business development — sustainability for Pilot Company, said the Caledonia Pilot location will join up to 499 other Pilot and Flying J locations making up EV chargers capable of delivering 350 kW, coast to coast.

"Our goal is to enable safe, reliable EV travel across the major highways and corridors in the U.S.," Langenkamp said. "American highway travelers have been stopping at our travel centers for decades, and we know those who



**SUBMITTED PHOTOS**  
 Richard Duerr, left, shown with grand-daughter Abbey Schmalig, moved his family from Milwaukee to Burlington in the 1950s to open the city's first physical therapy practice.

## 50 years helping patients recover and rebuild

Burlington's first physical therapist remembered for dedication to community

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BURLINGTON — Dick Duerr could work with his hands, so he thought about becoming an engineer.

In college, however, his attention shifted to an emerging field in health care — physical therapy.

Duerr became the first physical therapist in Burlington, and he spent 50 years using his hands to help patients repair their bodies after injury, illness or surgery.

Sally Bartelson of Burlington recalls Duerr making house calls for several weeks to guide her husband, Tom, through his recuperation from double knee replacement surgery.

Gently and patiently, Duerr worked with her husband so he could regain full use of both knees without having to walk with a cane.

Bartelson said she was impressed that Duerr combined a quiet and calm demeanor with an aggressive and regimented therapeutic workout.

He was an old-fashioned



Richard Duerr, left, and his wife, Delores Zagrodnik, were married from 1951 until her death in 2009.

nationwide polio epidemic that had left many people physically challenged and dejected.

Duerr graduated from UW-Madison with a master's degree in 1952, and he was soon working at hospitals in Waukesha and Milwaukee.

He married Delores Zagrodnik in 1951. The couple enjoyed 57 years together before her death in 2009.

Duerr moved his family to Burlington in 1958 and set up the community's first physical therapy practice. For the next 50 years, he served patients in his own practice and at Burlington Memorial Hospital and elsewhere.

Lori Traber, a longtime nurse at Burlington Memorial, said she watched Duerr care for patients who were recovering from accidents, strokes, surgeries and other ailments.

Having never worked with a physical therapist before, Traber recalled seeing Duerr train patients to exert themselves physically while also motivating them to stay committed to their recovery. She called him a pioneer in the field of physical therapy.



**DUERR**

# Last living sibling of Martin Luther King, dies

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Christine King Farris, the last living sibling of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., has died.

Her niece, the Rev. Bernice King, tweeted that her "beloved aunt" died Thursday. She was 95.

For decades after her brother's assassination in 1968, Farris worked along with his widow, Coretta Scott King, to preserve and promote his legacy. But



Christine King Farris

unlike her high-profile sister-in-law, Farris' activism — and grief — was often behind the scenes.

"She may not have always been on the line of the march, but that was true with a lot of the heroes of the civil rights movement,"

said Marcellus Barksdale, a history professor at Morehouse College, of Farris in a 2009 interview with The Associated Press. "Because of the humanness of Dr. King and Coretta Scott King, Christine kind of got dimmed by that, but she was no less important."

Farris was born Willie Christine King on Sept. 11, 1927, in Atlanta. She was the first child of the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta

Christine Williams King. Farris helped Coretta Scott King build The King Center and helped to teach Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolent resistance. For years, her regal, dignified presence was a mainstay at the ecumenical service celebrating her brother's birthday at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where her grandfather and father also preached and where Farris remained a member.

In Loving Memory Of  
**Pablo Amaya**  
June 30, 1923 - June 30, 2022  
On his first Birthday in Heaven.



Dear Dad, it's been a year since you left us to go to your final resting place. The ache in my heart from losing you is still very strong and I don't see it getting much better anytime soon. I miss you so very much. Your picture hangs just outside my bedroom door so I start each day with a "good morning Dad" and end each day with a "goodnight Dad".

I'm taking care of Mom and the others as best I can. They are fine. Don't worry about anything here. Dad, please say "Hi" to the rest of my brothers and sisters. I draw comfort from knowing you are not alone. Please keep your loving arms around us till we meet again. I love you! De parte de tu "Muchacha Bonita", Blanca Linda and the rest of your family.

## DEATHS

**BUSCH, Jacqueline "Jackie," 66**  
Tomahawk, June 2, at Hospice House, Wausau, Schutte-Daniels Funeral Home, Burlington.

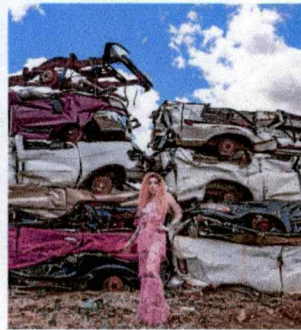
**HEUER, Marietta "Mary," 76**  
Racine, June 29, at her residence, Draeger-Langendorf Funeral Home & Crematory, Mount Pleasant.

**LALOR, Julia A., 65**  
Racine, June 26, at her residence, Draeger-Langendorf Funeral Home & Crematory, Mount Pleasant.



HOTEL VERDANT PERMANENT ART COLLECTION

University of Wisconsin-Parkside art professor Lisa Marie Barber's acrylic on canvas is pictured, titled "Urban Garden" and completed in 2011.



René Amado's work, "Beautiful Disasters," is an archival inkjet print completed in 2023.

## Art

From B1

■ Maggie Venn, mixed media

Over half of the 22 artists are current or former educators from public, private and parochial schools in the area, including the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and Carthage College.

Print reproductions of works from RAM's permanent collection — featuring three images each by artists Robert Burkert and Ruth Grotenrath — will hang in the hotel's guest rooms.

Two original intaglio prints by Frances Myers depicting local Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings will also be in the presidential suite.

Burkert and Myers were both born and raised in Racine and came to international prominence for their work in the printmaking medium. Grotenrath was a lifelong Milwaukee resident who taught classes at RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts and had a long relationship with the museum.



Bill Reid's work, "Beehicle," is painted steel completed in 2022.

RAM Executive Director and Curator of Collections Bruce Pepich said the hotel display efforts will provide local artists with exposure to a wide audience of visitors from outside Racine staying here and locals who visit for events or to enjoy the restaurant and bar.

"Linking the vibrancy of the local arts community to the hotel is a great opportunity to show people who we are in Racine," Pepich said. "Think of how many hotels are decorated with anonymous reproductions that say nothing about the place you are visiting. The Hotel Verdant collection is unique and specific to southeast Wisconsin. The

hotel's guests will know immediately they are in a special place when they enter."

The works in the Hotel Verdant Permanent Art Collection align with the hotel's focus on environmental and community sustainability and complement the hotel's "hygge" aesthetic by:

■ Speaking to environmental issues and concerns in the natural and built environment.

■ Incorporating natural and recycled materials and striving to repurpose waste products.

■ Promoting cohesion and community pride by expressing diverse conceptions of community and place.

■ Evincing a high level of craft and enhancing the hotel's interior design.

The selected works represent a range of styles and media and have been curated into groupings that share formal elements and subject matter while displaying different materials, textures, sizes and dimensions.

"This project at Hotel Verdant enables us to demonstrate how a local business can join efforts with people from the Racine's artist community to create something truly exciting," Pepich said. "This collection, and its public display, unites the brands and the efforts of our two organizations with that of the hotel to showcase Racine as a destination and create an inviting environment people will want to see and enjoy."

Hotel Verdant is accepting reservations starting in August.

## Duerr

From B1

"It wasn't just a job for Dick," she said. "This was his life."

Duerr built a house on Summit Avenue where he and Delores raised four daughters — Sandy, Gail, Denise and Leslie.

Sandy Schmalzing said her father was so dedicated to his profession that he never

missed a day of work, even after suffering an injury while playing basketball. Sandy accompanied her father to work one day, and she was so inspired, she became a nurse.

"Working with his patients, he really, really enjoyed it," she said.

As a longtime member of St. Mary Catholic Church, Duerr in his later years volunteered to help serve hot lunches to students at both

St. Mary and the affiliated St. Charles Catholic schools.

Barb Richter, who supervised the school lunches, said Duerr showed up to volunteer once a week — more often than most volunteers.

Richter described Duerr as "a kind, hearty soul" who dedicated himself to work, family and anything else that became part of his life.

"He was one of the good ones," she said. "He took care of people."

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