



EXAMINER PHOTO | NATE SMITH

Retired art teacher Holly Ruggles evaluates a patriotic-themed display Tuesday at Green Hills.

Green Hills hosts regional art, writing competition

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Green Hills Retirement Community has been transformed into an art gallery, showcasing artists' work from a nine-county region.

LeadingAge Ohio, a not-for-

profit services advocate, conducts a statewide art/writing competition each year, and Green Hills hosts the regional show for western Ohio, encompassing Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Crawford, Hardin, Mercer, Putnam, Shelby and Logan counties.

Artists may submit one

piece of work in about 20 categories ranging from woodworking to poetry. Submissions are limited only to residents at LeadingAge Ohio-affiliated retirement communities, but are encouraged from artists of all levels of ability.

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Art and writing judging began Tuesday and continues through today. Winners will be announced later tonight.

“Our residents take this judging very seriously,” said Kathryn Sherer, director of life enrichment for Green Hills. “The judging is supposed to be closed-door, but one of the doors to Foundation Hall doesn’t lock and we’ll have a few people sneaking in, trying to see the results.

“More than 100 pieces of art and writing have been submitted from 26 organizations in the western region, so the competition is pretty stiff.”

A total of six judges evaluate and rank the artwork on the basis of originality, creativity and execution.

“I’m looking for a good design and use of color,” said Holly Ruggles, as she looked over an Independence Day display.

The retired Bellefontaine High School art teacher was responsible for judging the woodworking and three-

dimensional categories.

“I’m also interested in seeing a good use of materials,” she said.

Top placers in each category advance to a statewide competition in Columbus Sept. 7 through 9.

“It takes a lot of coordination to put the event together,” Ms. Sherer said, “but Green Hills is always very well represented and to see our residents succeed like that makes the work pay off.”

The gallery is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday. A special friends and family gallery is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday.

Scheduled entertainment during gallery hours includes performances from students at the Detwiler School of Dance and Bits and Pieces dulcimer group.

“These galleries are traditionally pretty well attended,” Ms. Sherer said, noting that Green Hills hosted the event two years ago as well.

“We expect a pretty steady flow of people each day.”