

# **BMHS Art Club auctioning off creations**

**By Hillary Gavan hgavan@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Saturday, May 4, 2013 10:00 am**

Easter eggs and the insides of mattresses were just some of the unique materials students in Beloit Memorial High School's sculpture class and Art Club used to make chandeliers inspired by glass artist Dale Chihuly.

The sculptures are going to be displayed and then auctioned off starting at 11:30 a.m. May 11, at the Villager, 429 E. Grand Ave., as part of Beloit's Art Walk.

Rich Ranft with United Country Beloit Auction will conduct the auction. Proceeds will go back to the art department, according to Downtown Beloit Association (DBA) Program Coordinator Crystal Buhmeyer.

Buhmeyer said there were around 100 hanging basket metal frames that expired last year as new hanging baskets were put up on Beloit's streets.

The DBA approached BMHS art teacher Liz Carpenter asking if she had a use for the shabby-chic looking metal basket frames.

"She jumped at the idea and decided to turn them into chandeliers," Carpenter said.

Carpenter took the hanging baskets as an opportunity to teach her students about glass artist Dale Chihuly who leads the avant-garde in the development of glass as a fine art. His work is included in more than 200 museum collections worldwide. Chihuly's lifelong fascination for glasshouses has grown into a series of exhibitions within botanical settings. Chihuly Garden and Glass opened at Seattle Center in 2012, according to [www.chihuly.com](http://www.chihuly.com).

Carpenter said the shabby-chic style metal frames were the perfect foundation for chandeliers.

The chandeliers made by Carpenter's students had a garden theme and used unique materials to replicate glass. Each has a light bulb inside the metal frame with materials such as beads, flowers and even sock monkeys cascading down.

For example, eleventh graders Caitlan Coffee and Kayla Schwebke and ninth grader Cody Thostenson melted and shaped Easter eggs and soda bottles into flowers which were spray painted to resemble a stain glass.

Twelfth grader Megan Stenberg covered the base of the chandelier in moss and then added hanging faux grapes and a sock monkey in a swing.

Other students used thick white material from the inside of a mattress to resemble Rastafari hair style with a large barrette made out of cardboard.

Other students used pencils and painted theater masks, and junior Zulma Morales created a yarn monster chandelier. She started throwing yarn at the frame when she spotted a piece of yarn that looked like a nose. After a tongue, eyes and ears were added the monster was born.

ArtWalk 2013 will be held from 5 - 9 p.m. May 10 and from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. May 11 in downtown Beloit. The weekend of ArtWalk will feature art and entertainment as downtown businesses transform into fine-art galleries for the 11th Annual Artwalk, according to [www.downtownbeloit.com](http://www.downtownbeloit.com).

---