

# STUDENTS DESIGN, CONSTRUCT BICYCLE RACKS FOR DOWNTOWN

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Photo provided (From left): Beloit Memorial High School graduate Thomas Risseuw and Owen Larson worked on welding bicycle racks for downtown Beloit in a welding class. The racks are functional and artistic.

BELOIT - Soon the downtown shopping public will be able to view the work of some talented Beloit Memorial High School students.

Bike racks - designed and welded by students - will be installed in front of Cup and Cake Bakeshop, 430 East Grand Ave., and CrossFit Beloit, 302 State St.

John Carroll, a member of the former Beloit and Beyond Bike Tour (BBBT), said there was about \$1,500 available in donations in the group's bank account when it disbanded last year. He said those associated with the group wanted to do something for the biking community, noting Beloit has been in need of more bicycle parking.

Carroll, as well as Sue Fugate, BBBT chair, contacted School District of Beloit Technical Education Director Mitch Briemeister, pitching the idea of having two teams of students compete to design a bike sculpture to be installed in downtown Beloit. The plan was for the racks to be galvanized and powder coated for free at Custom Metal Coating in South Beloit and installed by the city at the direction of the Downtown Beloit Association.

Terry Schindler, welding and machining instructor at Beloit Memorial High School (BMHS), said students in the welding class put the racks together and some CNC Machining students worked on the design for the emblem on the rack.

Students involved in the project were as follows: Thomas Risseeuw, Owen Larson, Malaki Skilling, Gavin Fischer, Chris Goodwin, Masen Diaz, Devon McIntyre, Garrett Petersen, Jonathan Varela and Corbin Ovist.

Schindler said the students divided into two groups to come up with two designs.

"We voted on best design as a class, and each group built one to mimic the winning design," Schindler said.

Schindler explained how the majority of the class tested for the American Welding Society SENSE Certificate in addition to working on the project, and it gave students practical experience to do the test.

"It was fun actually making something instead of just doing welding exercises," said BMHS graduate Owen Larson. "I learned how to apply things in welding 1,2 and 3 classes and used them on a real project."

Larson said it was a challenging project because the metal was thin and easy to burn through.

Larson will continue to use his skills learned. He is starting a job in training with United Alloy in a couple of weeks and said he's excited to begin a career as a welder.

Beloit Memorial High School graduate Thomas Risseeuw said working on the bike racks was a fun experience which taught him how to work off of a blueprint. The most challenging part of it, he said, was fixing mistakes. Having taken welding 1, 2 and 3 in high school, he's looking forward to finding a job as a welder.

Carroll said he was very pleased with the end product made by students which he called artistic and utilitarian.

"It's beautiful work. It's just gorgeous," Schindler said. "These kids are really talented and so is Terry Schindler."