



For Immediate Release:

Willoughby Students Replicating First Traffic Light

Willoughby- March 7, 2011 - The DiVine District, Willoughby Historical Society and The City of Willoughby are excited to partner with the talented and creative students in the Willoughby Tech Center Welding program who have accepted the challenge to create an artistic rendition of Garrett Morgan's ground breaking traffic signal. The project is a group effort to pay homage to the historical icon and highlight Willoughby's role in the development of this hallmark. The finished piece will be the featured sculpture during the DiVine District's ArtStock event on May 15, 2011.

Mr. Morgan's innovative traffic control signal was originally located in downtown Willoughby in 1924, as part of the testing procedures, before it was cleared for full scale use in Cleveland. The three armed fabrication is credited with the fundamental design and serves as the predecessor to the modern day traffic light, which is now in use all over the world!

The Welding students are creating a sculpture of the structure taking liberties on scale and materials, while using the original blueprints as a foundation. The class focuses on community projects, as well as participating in competitions demonstrating their skills sets through the SkillsUSA program for vocational enrichment. These youngsters, who call themselves *The Gang For Good*, were recently featured on TV8 for another project, Phillip The Fire Truck, a large scale renovation to assist in teaching fire safety to children.

"The class Instructor, Mr. Ryan Eubank, and the students embraced the project immediately! They went to work researching documents, creating schematics and fabricating prototypes within hours!" says Jackie Bertolette, Co-Owner of My Song Boutique and Co-Founder of The DiVine District coalition. "We are thrilled to be able to present this piece as the premiere sculpture at ArtStock on May 15th."

"We were excited to have the opportunity to make this replica," says Mr. Eubank. "The students are learning about history and community involvement, as well as fabrication."

The Traffic Signal sculpture will be on display during ArtStock in The DiVine District on May 15, from 1-5pm and a ceremony to honor the students will be held at 1:30pm. More than 20 local artists will be on hand to demonstrate their crafts and a performance schedule includes area dance, baton troops and musicians. Join us for this FREE family friendly event and witness, participate in and experience art! Artist space is also free and still available. Call now to reserve your spot. More information at www.thedivinedistrict.com or by phone at 440.918.1480. More information on the Tech Welding class initiatives at www.thegangforgood.webs.com.

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