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—Contributor.....Alyssa Grosso
—Contributor email.....Alyssagrosso1124@gmail.com
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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 A way to say thanks

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2 In November, Crowell Art Gallery and Moore Free
3 Library turn the spotlight to the volunteers — and the art that they
4 create or they cherish

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5 TEXT BODY:

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6 The Crowell Art Gallery at Moore Free Library is now
7 showing “Volunteers’ Choice,” a show featuring a variety of
8 artwork created by volunteers, as well as some by local artists,
9 through Saturday, Nov. 29.

10 A reception will be held Sunday, Nov. 16, at 3 p.m.

11 This show focuses on thanking gallery volunteers and
12 allowing them to display their favorite pieces they possess or
13 have made.

14 "I think it's a great idea to get everyone who may not
15 have a whole collection or consider themselves an artist who can
16 exhibit, but we all get to kind of participate," artist Jaye Settle
17 says.

18 This is the first volunteer art show at the library and
19 gallery.

20 "The idea came up that since we're all art lovers, that it
21 would be fun to have an exhibit of art that we've chosen, either
22 art that we've collected from other artists, or art that we've
23 created ourselves," says Beckley Gaudette, the library and gallery
24 director

25 Gaudette talks about how there is a lot of art in the area
26 and how the show provides an opportunity for artists to hang
27 their work.

28 "Some of us have enjoyed artwork from southern
29 Vermont artists ourselves, and have some of those pieces in our
30 home, and it's very exciting to be able to bring it to our gallery
31 and share it with the community," Gaudette says.

32 **'Making everyone feel like an 33 artist'**

34 Settle, whose painting appears in the show, explains that
35 this will be her first time displaying artwork, other than on
36 Facebook.

37 "I was really excited when Beckley announced this," she
38 says. "I thought that it was really lovely to make everyone feel
39 like they were an artist."

40 Settle has been creating art her whole life, ranging from
41 pastels to crazy sculptures. "I love just trying something new all
42 the time," she says.

43 She has advice for beginning artists.

44 "Do art. Just do art all the time. You're an artist if you
45 make art. And so that's all that you have to do, is do it," she says.

46 She says that "the sky's the limit, especially here in
47 Vermont, for being able to get the word out about your stuff."

48 "I really like going to the library classes and the free
49 programs, because I feel like there's always an enthusiastic expert
50 who wants to teach you, and you get kind of a taste of it." Settle
51 explains.

52 **Joining the Crowell 53 Community**

54 Settle explains why a show highlighting volunteers is
55 important to the community.

56 "I feel like it makes us feel included... to feel like we're
57 important people, too, is really great," she says. "Plus, I feel like
58 we're going to get a lot more people from the community to
59 come into the art gallery, because all of us are going to drag our
60 friends and family there.

61 "I think it's a great idea to get everyone who may not
62 have a whole collection or consider themselves an artist who can
63 exhibit, but we all get to kind of participate." Settle says.

64 For Gaudette, the show is also a form of appreciation.

65 "We have a lot of volunteers who are involved with the
66 library, and I think this is a way to thank them for their time,
67 because they love art," she says.

68 And for volunteers, "it's quite a community of people
69 here. And also people learn things."

70 "So even if they're retired and have left their professional
71 jobs, there's things always to learn here at the library," Gaudette
72 explains.

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Bio/COATTAIL:

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73 To learn more about volunteering opportunities, email
74 moorefreelibrary@gmail.com or call 802-365-7948.

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