

—Slug:.....COMM-0875.arts.swords_plowshares
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—Article Number:.....43969

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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- 1 BMAC hosts Swords to Plowshares event at August
- 2 Gallery Walk

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- 4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

- 5 Swords to Plowshares Vermont will hold its annual
- 6 Forging Event Friday, Aug. 7, at the Brattleboro Museum & Art
- 7 Center. The event will take place during Gallery Walk starting at 5
- 8 p.m. The event is free and open to all.
- 9 The featured blacksmith will be Will Alderfer, local
- 10 jewelry maker and owner-founder of W.R. Metalarts, who will set
- 11 aside his fine jewelry work for the evening to demonstrate how

12 gun barrels can be transformed into a garden trowel, a hand hoe,
13 or a piece of jewelry.

14 He also will guide participants in using a blacksmith
15 hammer so they can feel the power of transforming a gun barrel
16 into a small heart for a necklace. All materials and safety
17 equipment will be provided.

18 A special presentation will take place at 6 p.m. Attendees
19 will learn about the history and mission of Swords to Plowshares
20 Vermont. Windham County Sheriff Mark Anderson, a member of
21 the organization's board of directors, will speak about his
22 experience and involvement with the organization.

23 "In my law enforcement career, I've responded to more
24 suicides with firearms than crimes with guns," said Anderson in a
25 news release. "When the idea of Swords to Plowshares came
26 about, it was a clear way to have discussions about firearms
27 violence that is in the shadows: how firearms impact our
28 community outside of crime."

29 To help promote safe gun storage, free gun locks will be
30 available.

31 Swords to Plowshares Vermont is a nonprofit
32 organization whose mission is to reduce gun violence and foster
33 gun safety through education and public awareness. They provide
34 opportunities for people to responsibly and safely dispose of
35 unwanted firearms and transform them into garden tools, jewelry,
36 and art.

37 The organization recently received a generous donation
38 from Rolling Thunder New Hampshire #3 of Hinsdale. Rolling
39 Thunder is a nonprofit veterans' advocacy group that is dedicated
40 to POW/MIA awareness.

41 For more information on the August 7 Swords to
42 Plowshares Forging Event, email info@swordsploowsharesvt.org or
43 visit swordsploowsharesvt.org.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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