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“Growing” More Art in the City - Grand Ledge Dedicates New Sculpture

GRAND LEDGE, MI, September 12, 2016 — The City of Grand Ledge held a ceremony dedicating their latest sculpture, “Growing Progress,” located downtown at the corner of West Jefferson and Harrison Streets. The sculpture was made possible by a generous \$10,000 donation from David and Nancy Huhn who commissioned the sculpture in memory of David’s parents, Victor J. and Rosella C. Huhn who were longtime residents of Grand Ledge. The dedication brought together City officials, members of the Huhn extended family, as well as many art and classic car enthusiasts.

Speaking at the dedication, Grand Ledge Mayor Kalmin Smith said, “Public art is especially valuable to cities like Grand Ledge that place great importance on creating a sense of place in their communities. While there is personal meaning for David and Nancy Huhn behind the design of the sculpture, in my opinion, “Growing Progress” provides a special meaning that rings true and resonates with all of us. All of our families have stories of significant, life-altering changes in livelihood that influenced future generations. Appreciating where we have been can help all of us as we make our own choices and move toward a bright future, together with our families and our community.”

The Huhn family started their journey in the United States much the same as a majority of immigrants by settling into agriculture as the source of their livelihood. After WWI, many families moved to the urban areas to seek a new way of life. In 1919, Leo Huhn changed his journey by opening a Chevrolet dealership in Grand Ledge. This opportunity provided a new path for other family members to follow. Huhn Chevrolet operated a location on West Jefferson Street, just steps from the sculpture, from 1923-1966.

“A special thank you to David and Nancy Huhn for their generosity, the Public Art Committee, City Council, Downtown Development Authority, and Thomas Sheerin for creating the sculpture,” said Adam Smith, City Administrator.

“Growing Progress” was created by Michigan artist, Thomas Sheerin and is made entirely of recommissioned metal. Standing 10 feet tall and 11 feet in length, the base represents a plowshare that transforms into a wheat crop to pay homage to the Huhn family’s history in agriculture. The top of the sculpture represents an eagle/jet-shaped hood ornament similar to a 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air, a favorite of the late Victor Huhn, and signifying the country post WWII, strong and growing into the Jet Age. “Growing Progress” serves as a reminder that after years of war and depression, the country is looking up.



With the addition of “Growing Progress,” the City of Grand Ledge now has eight art attractions that can be easily located through the Arts Council of Greater Lansing’s 517 ARTsearch app, available for smartphone users via iTunes or Google Play.

For additional information on art attractions in the City of Grand Ledge, visit www.cityofgrandledge.com.

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