ENTERTAINMENT

Name that giraffe

by Jeff Hirsh
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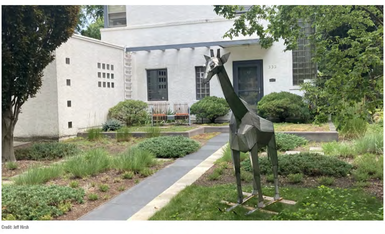

Credit: Jeff Hirsh

It looks like an escapee from a heavy metal petting zoo.

A six foot high sheet metal giraffe.

Standing in a yard in the 300 block of Wesley Avenue.

Searching for a name.

Credit: Jeff Hirsh

The giraffe was built by Steve Quinn, a graphic designer who has a metal art business on the side.

"It keeps me out of the pool halls," he jokes.

Quinn's other metal art is functional — benches or fireplace screens, for example.

But the giraffe "is the first piece I've done which is strictly decorative."

In the world of metal art, the giraffe is in "low poly" style, because of so many polygons.

Credit: Jeff Hirsh

The eyeballs are ball bearings.

And the whole thing rests on skis that Quinn got from a neighbor.

The metal animal will ultimately end up in Quinn's backyard, as part of his wife Lisa Schumacher's garden, fitting in but also somewhat above the flowers and hedges.

"Tall enough so you can see it," Quinn says.

A real, live adult giraffe can be 2-3 times taller than this metallic cousin. Credit: Jeff Hirsh

And actually, the giraffe was Schumacher's inspiration.

The couple had considered a sheet metal horse, but, Quinn says, "we're not really horse people."

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But a giraffe, Schumacher said, "is whimsical, and so much fun."

But first, a name.

While working in his driveway finishing the 80-pound giraffe (which took about 100 hours from concept to conclusion), "I got asked 100 times, 'do you have a name for it?'"

So, Quinn now has a "name the giraffe" jar in front of his creation.

Credit: Jeff Hirsh

"It's mostly just for the neighbors," he says.

"It's a lot of fun."

More than 25 ideas have come in so far, ranging from the alliterative – George, Joe, Gerald ... to something clearly from a youngster – "Super Chicken Ice Cream."

Names can be put in the jar through July 7.

Then Quinn will choose a winner and put a name tag around the giraffe's neck before moving it to the backyard.

No prize for the successful name creator.

Just perpetual fame

At least in the 300 block of Wesley.

Credit: Jeff Hirsh

While the giraffe is Quinn's first "purely decorative" creation, it may not be his last.

He's thinking of crafting a sheet metal elephant, a pig, and 42 "crazy" metal fish, again, all for the garden.

So maybe this will turn out to be a heavy metal petting zoo after all.

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