

Mural brightens up Sumner studio

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By Kathleen Folkert

COPLEY — Residents at Sumner on Ridgewood wanted to make their art studio look like an art studio.

Now, after months of work, a brightly painted mural featuring a whimsical outdoor scene fills one wall of the room in the Manor House, making the transformation complete.

Sue Augustine, director of resident life, said the idea for a mural came after she attended a conference on the arts in health care. Sumner already had been hosting art classes and had a dedicated group of students.

“I saw the talent in that class,” she said. “This is an art studio and it needed something.”

The students and their art teacher, Wanda Spangler, didn’t hesitate to take on the project.

“They were pretty excited about the idea,” Augustine said.

The mural artists all live in Sumner’s Independent Living division.

Betsy Silver said she painted butterflies and mushrooms on the mural.

“It’s fun to have everyone pitch in,” Silver said.

Ann Alexander said she painted flowers.

“It’s very attractive,” Alexander said while looking over the finished product, which was painted with acrylics. “It brightens up the room. It’ll surprise people when they come in here.”

Spangler said she got ideas from art magazines for the mural but added that it was a work in progress thanks to the residents.

“People kept coming in and saying, we want to see this or we want to see that,” she said.

In response, little woodland animals like rabbits were added to the mural, she said. There’s even a tiny elf in a corner.

The artists’ names also appear in the mural but aren’t obvious because they are worked into the painting.

Augustine said there is interest in having Sumner artists create another mural elsewhere in the senior community.

She added the weekly art class is open to nonresidents as well.

Clair Alexander said he enjoyed working on the mural and in the class, where students were learning how to use watercolors, which he hadn’t used since fifth grade.

“That’s the last time I used watercolors,” he said.

For more information on the class, call Spangler at 330-455-6440.



Residents at Sumner on Ridgewood painted a mural featuring a whimsical outdoor scene on a wall in the Manor House, shown below. Shown above with the mural in the Sumner on Ridgewood art studio are, from left, (bottom row) Ann Alexander and Betsy Silver and (top row) Director of Resident Life Sue Augustine, art instructor Wanda Spangler, Clair Alexander, Helen Jenkins and Dorothy Freed.



Photos: Kathleen Folkert