Save the Date!

**November 16**
Trinkets & Treasures, over 50 art & craft vendors, ginger bread house contest, and more. Sponsored by Ferndale Band Boosters, 9am - 5pm at FHS Gym

**December 6-8**
Old Fashioned Christmas hosted by the Ferndale Heritage Society at Pioneer Park, for more information go to www.ferndaleheritagesociety.com/pdfs/OFCFlyer2013.pdf

**December 6**
Tree Lighting sponsored by the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce at Riverfront Park, 5:00 pm

Looking Ahead...
Remember that April is National Poetry Month. Start thinking about your favorite poem and get ready for some creative poetry and photo challenges to come your way!

If you have arts news, an interesting article idea, or something you think should be brought before the community in the Ferndale ARTS News, email us at ferndalearts@cityofferndale.org and let us know what you are thinking!

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Pauline Hillaire Named 2013 NEA National Heritage Fellow

Lummi artist Pauline Hillaire works to carry on Lummi heritage as an artist, teacher, native-arts conservator, author, and storyteller. Her efforts have earned her recognition as she has been awarded the Bess Lomax Hawes Fellowship, an award named after the National Education Association’s Director of Folk and Traditional Arts. To learn more about Hillaire, her work, and this award, please go to http://arts.gov/honors/heritage/fellows/pauline-hillaire?id=2013_07&type=bio&utm_source=June%202013%20eNews&utm_campaign=June%20eNews&utm_medium=email

The Ferndale Arts Commission congratulates Pauline Hillaire!
Sodt, Drawer of Dragons & Brands
Named Artist of the Quarter
By Sam Taylor, Ferndale City Clerk & Community Information Officer

Fifth grader Jonathan Sodt was told to draw what he wanted to be when he grew up. Naturally, he drew an astronaut.

His mother and teacher, however, were so impressed with the artistic skill of the drawing, they suggested maybe he wanted to consider being an artist instead.

Now a 38-year-old Ferndale resident, Sodt’s artwork is seen on the side of Boundary Bay beer bottles, Super Feet product advertising and, soon, at an arts market in Bellingham.

The Ferndale Arts Commission has named him Artist of the Quarter for the last part of 2013, the first time such an award has been given by the group.

“(Sodt’s) art is striking and engaging as is his demeanor,” said FAC Chairperson Marla Morrow. “He is lavish with his imagination and humor, which creates a blend of intrigue.”

Originally from Bellingham, Sodt met his wife, Ferndale native Julie Giesbrecht, at a Bellingham coffee shop. They moved to Ferndale when he was hired at Ferndale’s Super Feet for his artistic talents so he could walk to work.

He most recently hosted a booth of his artwork at the 2nd Annual Art in the Park, an event in Ferndale’s Historic Pioneer Park, which he called “the best event I’ve ever been to.”

Sodt isn’t just an artist of advertising. He also creates a comic series called “Harmless Free Radicals,” now published online at harmlessfreeradicals.com, but previously in the now-defunct “Whatcom Independent” weekly newspaper.

One of his latest projects is the Professional Dragon series, which displays various dragons engaging in acts of employment like making coffee or undertaking garbage collection. The dragons are part of an entire world he has created for a comic series, though he sells sketches of the beasts separately.

In one Professional Dragon rendition, Sodt introduces a viewer to Bittenok the Barrista, wings folded back and down. Quill-like spines form a row along his back as reading glasses delicately rest on his face and a neatly tied apron covers his torso. The dragon delicately holds a small, white cappuccino cup’s handle with one clawed finger.

“Jonathan’s cartoon art transports the viewer into an arresting pause,” the Arts Commission’s Morrow says. “His sharp observations of bodily expression are paired well with his social commentary and its comedic appeal is cross-generational.”

Well, they might not know what his dragons look like.

Both the web comics and the dragon series are not just visual artwork to him, he explains. The stories themselves are as much art as his pictures.

“Art is the product of the passionate expression of skill,” he says.

The artist began his professional career in 2000 with “Harmless Free Radicals,” which got the attention of Boundary Bay Brewery. Find one of their beer bottle labels with a sunset on it and you’ve seen Sodt’s work. He then moved on to the Whatcom Independent and then Super Feet until 2012.

Looking for work now, Sodt says he has had more success in 2013 than in previous years selling his art on his own. Why success this year? He attributes it to some new marketing ideas.

“That’s basically selling on Etsy(.com) and bragging about it on Facebook,” Sodt says.

But the artist says that, at least as of now, selling his art is not a living.

“It’s a sustainable hobby, and from that aspect, I thoroughly enjoy it.”

MORE ONLINE: See Sodt create his artwork and renditions of one of his dragon creations at www.cityofferndale.org/arts.php
Art in the Park 2013 was a testament to the experiential joys of the visual, literary and performing arts presented free to the public on September 14th and 15th at Pioneer Pak in the historic Tillicum House and the Ferndale Public Library. Attendees ranged in age from infants and toddlers to octogenarians from Island County to the Province of British Columbia.

The Ferndale Arts Commission is grateful to Woods Coffee for the generous donation of hot beverages for our participating artists and to Fairhaven Toy Garden for the donation of a children’s art easel. Gratitude is also extended to The Sue C. Boynton Poetry Contest for display of this year’s winning entries. We thank the participating food vendors Hot Diggity Dog and Barb’s Pies and Pastries. The participating local artists listed below heightened the caliber of Art in the Park 2013 and to them we offer our thanks and applause.

Thanks to Doug Bascom for these Art in the Park outdoor activity photos!

Visual Artists
Jonathan Sodt, Illustrator & Cartoonist
Megan Bloom & Wendy Bloom, Paper Animal Sculptors
Jim Dixon, Kinetic Art Designer
Connie Porter, Painter & Fabric Artist
Caroline Schauer, Painter
Isha, Jewelry Designer
Christine Verkist, Pen & Ink Illustrator
Patricia Stiglani, Painter
Andy Hill, Recycled Metal Artist
Candace Gerard, Jewelry Designer

Performing Artists
Larry Johnson, Saxophonist
Margie Kimberley, Mime
Amelia Bacon, Reader
Frank Goes Behind, Native Storyteller
Ferndale Dance Students
FHS Chamber Orchestra Members
Barbara Craigie, Storyteller
Nathan Matson, Drum Circle Leader

The Ferndale Arts Commission will put out a call to artists in the spring for Art in the Park 2014. All artists are encouraged to apply!
**Our Mission:**
“The Ferndale Arts Commission is established to provide leadership for the cultural enrichment of our community.”

**Our Objectives:**

**Promote**
Expand public art’s role in economic development and the growth of tourism.

**Advocate**
Be a force that champions the arts and their importance in the cultural development of the community.

**Educate**
Promote broad community awareness of the arts and education in the arts and the city’s historic resources.

**Connect**
Promote opportunities and support to community artists and arts organizations by providing a bridge between artists and the community at large.

**Advise**
Review aesthetic and design issues regarding works of art, architecture and landscape architecture on city-owned property and advise the city council and city administration.

**Commissioners:**
Marla Morrow, Chair
Rick LaFave, Vice Chair
Robin Peters, Secretary
Beth Buckland, Treasurer
Doug Bascom
Barbara Ingram
Ellen McAnany

For timely arts updates and information, please check out the Ferndale Arts Commission on Facebook!