

Meadville-themed bike racks make their debut



MIKE CROWLEY/Meadville Tribune

Two bike racks fabricated by Crawford Tech students in cooperation with Craig Newell Welding Inc. of Cambridge Springs were installed in front of the Meadville City Building last week and were quickly put to use. Another 23 similar racks will be installed at various spots around the city.

By Mike Crowley

MEADVILLE TRIBUNE

Two Meadville-themed bike racks fabricated by students in cooperation with a local business were installed last week in front of the Meadville City Building. The racks, ornamented with a tree design inspired by the city's logo, are the first of 25 that will be installed at various spots around the city.

The tree image, which rises from a ribbon that stretches from one side of the rack to the other, was designed by Crawford Tech drafting students and crafted by students

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Contributed photo

Crawford Tech welding students Libby Pringle, Tanner King, Caleb Szympruch, Cadyn Shetler, Max Dillaman, Gino Giliberto and Kyle Peterson worked to cut, assemble and weld Meadville-themed bike racks that are being installed in various spots around the city.

Bike

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in the welding shop, welding instructor Brad Custead said.

"They were very excited," Custead said of the students who participated in making the bike racks. "All of our shops like to do something for the community, and it's real nice when we can kind of bring a few shops together."

The stainless steel racks were a joint effort by Craig Newell Welding Inc. of Cambridge Springs and Crawford Tech students, according to Custead. The work started with the welding company bending the tubing that forms the upside-down U of the rack.

Drafting students, meanwhile, adjusted the city logo to create a tree image that could be cut from stainless steel by the CNC plasma cutter in Custead's shop, Custead explained. Weld-

ing students then cut the tree-and-rib-bon shapes and welded them to the U racks. Once complete, the racks went back to Cambridge Springs for powder coating by Craig Newell Welding.

A grant from Allegheny College's Network for Community-Engaged Learning paid for the racks, City Manager Maryann Menanno told Meadville City Council members in June when one of the finished racks was displayed for meeting participants.

Custead said keeping the bike racks a local production was important for the city officials coordinating the effort.

"They really wanted to work with our school and keep it all in the community, which is great," he said. "That benefits everybody."

In addition to the two racks installed on a newly poured concrete pad adjacent to the accessible rampway in front of the City Building, City Planner Peter Grella said racks

would be installed near Meadville Public Library and other spots around Diamond Park. One was also given to Crawford Tech in thanks for the school's efforts.

"The rest," Grella added, "we expect will be dispersed amongst city parks and other locations to be determined downtown."

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