

CITY OF EVANSVILLE, WISCONSIN
PRESS RELEASE

MISSING (but not lost): FIVE PAINTED LADIES
One wall, many memories



The Ladies Left to Right: Marilla Andrews, Sally Hardy Eager, Dr. Mary Ewing, Mabel Hall, Jean Guidone Wyse

EVANSVILLE, WI (January 19, 2024) – Their faces brightened the path along Allen Creek and the portraits of five premier Evansville women – long gone but not forgotten – sparked community pride and memories shared of the impact they left.

The mural--comprised of five individual portraits, each 8 feet tall by 4 feet wide--was mounted on the former Main Street Signs and Graphic Design building located at 157 East Main Street. The mural was originally placed there with the landowner's permission. However, in 2023, the building sold. The new owner intends to take down the building and redevelop the land.

Sharp-eyed community members have noticed a recently spray-painted tribute where the ladies once peered. This was done in memory of Jeff Vrstal, the late owner of Main Street Signs. Jeff was a long-time community member who designed and created many signs around the community and served on various City committees.

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Jeff Vrstal loved sunflowers. His children painted one last sign at 157 East Main to say goodbye.

The question remains: what happened to the portraits? For now, they are in storage, away from the elements. When the weather warms up, the portraits will receive some touch-ups from the artist, Lacy Shotliff. Special thanks go to the Municipal Services Department, who assisted in removing and relocating the ladies to their winter hideaway.

Tourism Commission Chairperson Sue Berg reports that a new home for the mural has been found in the downtown, thanks to the efforts of Nancy Nelson. The faces of these women entrepreneurs will grace the wall of their new location sometime late spring or early summer.

The Evansville Tourism Commission intends to pursue development of more public art murals, including the completion of a second mural later in 2024. Inquiries for new ideas are welcome from artists, donors and building owners. To learn how you can get involved, contact Sue Berg, Nancy Nelson, or Colette Spranger.

Contact:

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