

From left: Lissa Carter, Judie Keithley, Diana Lahey, Jennifer Dalessio, Adrienne West, Rachna Krishan, Joe Meyer, Candace Bovee, and Kathy Matay.



PHOTOS BY TERESA YURT

## Women's Group Presents Checks to Charities

Great Falls Friends & Neighbors gives donations to three local charities.

BY ADRIENNE WEST

Helping women and children in need is the common thread among Great Falls Friends & Neighbors (GFFN), our local women's club, and the charities they support. On Thursday, March 5, GFFN presented checks during their monthly meeting at the Great Falls Grange to Artemis House, the Women's Center, and GFFN's Scholarship Fund.

Throughout their calendar year, which runs from June to May, GFFN's philanthropy group organizes several events to benefit these non-profit charities. Their annual White House ornament sale has been a staple in our community for almost ten years. Other events included a holiday tea held at Katie's Coffee House, and a cooking demonstration at LAuberge Chez François. Future events like the Bluebells & Bald Eagle Walk in April will benefit a fourth organization, the Friends of Riverbend Park (FORB).

Artemis House, located in Herndon and part of the larger Shelter House organization, is the only 24-hour emergency shelter in Fairfax County for victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking. <https://shelterhouse.org/>

The Women's Center offers free and subsidized counseling, support, and education to local women, men, and children, in addition to acting as a leading teaching institution for mental health professionals. <https://thewomenscenter.org/>

Great Falls Friends & Neighbors Scholarship Fund (GFFNSF) provides scholarships to women over the



From left: Diana Lahey, Judie Keithley and Adrienne West of GFFN, Christie Lavin, Candace Bovee, and Lissa Carter of GFFNSF.

age of 25 who attend Northern Virginia Community College or George Mason University, maintain good grades, and demonstrate financial need. <https://www.gffnsf.org/>

Friends of Riverbend Park (FORB), is a group of local citizens that work to preserve and share the beauty of Riverbend Park along the Potomac River, as well as offer educational trips and fundraising events to the public. <http://www.forb.wildapricot.org/>

In addition to supporting local charities, Great Falls Friends & Neighbors provides opportunities for women in our community to socialize and enjoy cultural outings and adventures in the greater DC area. <https://gffnva.org/>



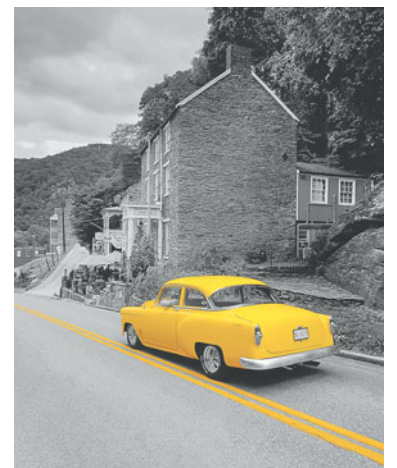
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ARTS OF GREAT FALLS

Award winning photographer Terri Parent visits the Cars in Art exhibit now showing at The Arts of Great Falls.

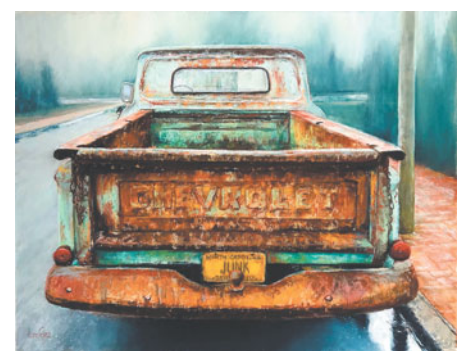
## Cars In Art Exhibit at the Arts of Great Falls

Two of Great Falls' favorites came together in March for an exciting juried exhibit in The Arts of Great Falls Gallery (756 Walker Road in Great Falls). "Cars in Art" is a collection of 40 pieces in a variety of mediums from 28 artists across the DVM area. Artwork will be on display until March 29. The people will choose the exhibit winner by voting for their favorite and the Fan Favorite Award will be given to the art with the most votes. Stop in during gallery open hours Wednesdays 12 – 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 6 a.m. – 2 p.m. or any other time an Atelier artist is in the studio. Executive Director Julie Casso said, "This show is so unique! It's fun to see new pieces from talented and award-winning artists from all over hanging together. People will enjoy high-quality oil paintings, photographs, and pastels. There's something for everyone." The community is welcome to attend the Awards Reception on Saturday, March 28 from 6-7:30 p.m.

All artwork is for sale and 30 percent benefits The Arts of Great Falls, a community supported, 501 (c) (3) nonprofit foundation. More info is available at [greatfallsart.org](http://greatfallsart.org).



"Cruising" by Gerry D'Onofrio (Photography).



Junk? by Lori Goll (Pastel)