

Galesville's famous pie oven gets a scenic face-lift

by John Ph. Graf

Allyn Kaste says he “blames” Cathy Casberg for coming up with the idea to create Apple Affair 33 years ago, and she “blames” him.

When Apple Affair was about six years old, Kaste had another idea. Why not make a large apple pie to help celebrate? Only Kaste can be blamed for that idea.

Now 27 years later, the giant oven is showing its age and Kaste has been pushing to get a makeover done on it. His hope is to upgrade the look of the oven so it “doesn’t appear so shabby.”

Several year ago, Kaste brought

the idea to the Galesville Area Chamber of Commerce, suggesting that an artist be found to paint a scenic, four seasons mural on the oven – one season on each side. The Chamber approved, giving-Kaste the green light to get the improvement made.

An artist was found, the mural discussed, but before the first paint can could be opened, that artist got too busy, summer turned into fall and Apple Affair needed the oven.

More time went by and another artist was contacted. Circumstances changed and that artist moved out of the area before unpacking

any paint brushes.

Kaste still wanted the sprucing up done, and the Chamber still supported the project, but no artist could be found.

Not too many weeks ago, a chance discussion with a relative led Sharon Spahr, a Chamber member, to connect with Edge Graphics, LLC, from Arcadia, a company that does vehicle wraps and lettering.

Kole Gamez, owner of Edge Graphics, met Kaste to size up the oven. He took measurements, pictures and carried Kaste’s sketches to Arcadia, where designer Brett Olson converted the rough sketch-

es into art that could be printed on vinyl adhesive strips some 12 feet wide and 27 inches high. The result is shown on page 9.

In the two weeks leading up to the 2015 Apple Affair, Edge Graphics will produce the mural and stick it on the oven. The finished product will be seen in the pie tent, Saturday, October 3, at the 33rd Annual Apple Affair.

While the whole artwork is important to Kaste, one small part of the new look carries a very special meaning.

Most people know Kaste is a pilot and loves to fly. Throughout the years, he has often been seen flying over Galesville, so it is no surprise there is a plane flying over the pastoral summer scene on one side of the oven.

What makes it real special is the tail number, a copy of the one on the tail of Kaste’s current plane, parked in his hangar at Holland Air Park, north of Holmen. That number is N258DK.

It honors the memory of Allyn and Lois Kaste’s son, David, who died March 26, 2011. For many years David worked with his dad, running the pie oven and helping ensure a properly baked taste treat.

The number represents David’s birthday – the 25th of August – followed by his initials. All United States registered planes carry the “N” in the first position, Kaste said.



Edge Graphic, LLC, owner Kole Gamez measures the Chamber’s giant pie oven so his company can make the four scenic decals that will be installed before this year’s Apple Affair. John Ph. Graf photo