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- Organizers of the Hors'n Around Saugerties exhibit say the proceeds will be divided among the artists, the Saugerties Food Pantry and local Chamber of Commerce.

By Ariel Zangla

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SAUGERTIES – One of the fancifully decorated horses created for the summer-long Hors'n Around Saugerties public art exhibit raised \$13,000 at a weekend auction.

At the Merry-Go-Round Gala and Auction Saturday at the Horse Shows in the Sun grounds off Washington Avenue Extension, 45 of the original 46 fiberglass horses were auctioned, along with two oil paintings of horses, organizers said. The auction, grossed nearly \$55,000, with the proceeds from ticket and souvenir sales adding another \$2,000 to the funds raised.

Half of the auction proceeds will be donated to the Saugerties Food Pantry, while the remaining proceeds will go to the artists and the Saugerties Area Chamber of Commerce.

The average winning bid at the auction was more than \$900, organizers said, though "History Filly" garnered \$13,000. The name of the winning bidder was not immediately available.

"We were very happy with the totals," town

Councilwoman Nancy Campbell, one of the event organizers said Monday, adding that several winning bidders purchased more than one horse. She said the auction was a success and the gala had "a very jovial atmosphere".

Campbell said people are already talking about having another public art exhibit next year.

More than 400 people attended the auction and gala, organizers said. HITS provided refreshments while singer and guitarist Pete Morrison provided entertainment.

Campbell said organizers originally planned to auction only 44 of the original 46 fiberglass horses because one "Harley Horse" was stolen, and another "Hyde Park Horse", was vandalized and being held as police evidence. However, she said Ulster County District Attorney Holley Carrnight called the day before the auction to say "Hyde Park Horse" could be released for the auction.

Campbell said she repaired the horse's leg and the artist planned to repaint it. In the meantime, "Hyde Park Horse" was sold to a Rhinebeck couple. Campbell said she believes the winning bid was \$750.

A town of Saugerties police officer, John Mullen, is

charged with vandalizing "Hyde Park Horse". Mullen was due in Village Court Monday.

"Harley Horse" was stolen in the early morning hours of July 5. A \$500 reward for its return was being offered.

In addition to the auction, the results of the "People's Choice" vote were announced. First place was a tie between "Midsummer's Night Mare" by Diana Cruz-Hasler and "Mohican Horse" by Linda Karlson. Second place went to "Henry Hudson Rocking Horse" by Kenny Rich, while third place went to "The Penny Pony" by Alex Kveton.

Campbell said Kveton also created etchings of his pony, which he presented to the Village Mayor, Town Supervisor, and the Hors'n Around Saugerties Committee. The etchings will be hung in the Town and Village halls, she said.



This painted fiberglass carousel horse, artist Alice Lindquist's "History Filly", fetched \$13,000 at Saturday's Merry-Go-Round Gala and Auction in Saugerties.