

County building houses art exhibit

■ A local group is sharing its work at the Dunn Building.

By NAOMI SMOOT
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

MARTINSBURG — The hallways of the county's Dunn Building are now brightened by the works of local artists.

Photographs of farmland and creative snapshots of two bathrobes embracing line one side of the second-floor hallway. Across the way, watercolors of the Berkeley County Roundhouse complex hang alongside other paintings of the Harpers Ferry train station.

All of the pieces were created by members of the newly formed group, ArtBerkeley. The works were put on display earlier this month, and will remain there throughout much of December, said group president Bonnie Rockie.

"Members wanted to display what they had done," she said of the exhibit's creation.

Rockie said that she and other members of the group approached the Berkeley County Commission earlier this year,



Journal photo by Ron Agnir

ArtBerkeley is exhibiting the work of local artists in the Dunn Building.

asking if they could display some of their work in the new Berkeley County Judicial Center. As a trial, the group agreed to allow ArtBerkeley to place some of its pieces on the second floor of the Dunn Building.

So far, it has been received with open arms.

"Everybody who's seen it has absolutely loved the idea," Rockie said.

Berkeley County Administrator Deborah Hammond agreed.

"It's been very positive thus far. People have been very pleased by the addition," she said. "I think people are just really pleased with the exhibit as a whole."

See ART B2

From The Journal
Sunday, Nov 26, 2006)

Art FROM PAGE B1

Visitors can view the art while in the building on county business, or can opt to stop by the Dunn Building Monday through Friday solely to admire the art, Hammond said. If anyone has particular interest in a piece, the commission's office has a list of the artists with their contact information so the pieces can be purchased.

Hammond said the program will be re-evaluated in the future, and could be expanded to the judicial center at a later date.

Rockie is hopeful that this won't be the last stand for the Dunn Building exhibit. Her group would like to display work in the building four times a year, she said.

It's eyeing other locations for its art displays as well. Rockie said ArtBerkeley also hopes to display some of its wares in vacant storefronts throughout the city.

"It's good for the community, and we don't want to have to travel 30 miles every time we want to see an art exhibit," she said.