

City of Newburgh

Press Release

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for immediate release
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Richard Ochs Memorial Exhibit In Downing Park Visitors Center

The Downing Park Planning Committee is pleased to host a memorial exhibit in the Visitors Center of paintings by one of the Hudson Valley's most renowned watercolor artists, the late Richard Ochs. Born in Newburgh in 1938, Ochs graduated from Newburgh Free Academy in 1956, and then went off to college, planning on a career in engineering. However, after majoring in economics and math at Hamilton College, he decided on teaching instead.

After graduation, Ochs returned to his hometown along the Hudson, where he obtained appointment as a math teacher at South Junior High School. He spent the next 32 years in its classrooms, while on the side taking graduate courses in math at the State University of New York at Albany and at New



Paltz. He also served in the Army National Guard. On April 14, 1968, he and Lucinda L. (Cindy) Bushart were married in Newburgh.

By the time Ochs retired from teaching in 1992, he had become well established as a professional artist. With limited formal art training but with the early encouragement of his mother, an amateur painter, he had over the years developed an interest in creative art. By the 1970s, he had found his medium in watercolor. With an impressionistic approach that produced “limpidly beautiful images,” he created works that were widely exhibited and captured numerous awards. They found their way into galleries and institutional collections all along the East Coast as well as into private collections, including that of television personality Merv Griffin.

For many years, Ochs conducted demonstrations and art workshops throughout the Northeast. In addition, he was very active in local art organizations, serving several terms as President of the North East Watercolor Society, and leading the society through much of its growth and accomplishment. He also served on the executive board of the Kent Art Association, and was a member of other art organizations, including the Salmagundi Club.

This exhibit will be on view from March 1 through March 31 at the Visitors Center Gallery, located in the Shelter House in Downing Park, at Carpenter Avenue and Third Street, Newburgh. Winter hours at the Gallery are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, March 3 from 2-4 p.m. For information call 565-5559.