



Student art promotes spay, neuter ordinance



John Shishmanian/Norwich Bulletin

June Bisantz, professor of digital art and design at Eastern Connecticut State University, worked with students designing billboard, poster and T-shirt art in support of a spay/neuter ordinance in Willimantic. Pictured from left are, front row, Lloyd Gevry of East Killingly, Melissa Smith of Southbury, Bisantz and Ilana Kolodnicki of Oakdale, and, back row, Bonan Curri of Hartford, Jason Maloney of West Hartford, Thurmond Thigpen of Bridgeport and Malachi Maynard of Canterbury. Check out more designs as well as photos from the class at NorwichBulletin.com. Go to Photo Galleries on the bottom of the home page.

Billboards, T-shirts by ECSU design class publicize Windham law

By LIZ MUGAVERO
Norwich Bulletin

WINDHAM — The town will receive well-deserved kudos next month for taking responsibility for cat overpopulation problems.

Eight Eastern Connecticut State University Design students created billboards, posters and T-shirts publicizing the city's decision to adopt a spay-and-neuter ordinance in June. The ordinance was developed by Joan Lamont, of CATS Northeast, who also was responsible for the town of Mansfield adopting the same ordinance in 2006.

Four billboard designs will appear throughout December in various spots, to be determined, across the city. All boast the slogan "Windham Takes Responsibility" and provide a contact number for spay and neuter assistance.

June Bisantz, professor of digital art and design at Eastern, took the project to her class after Lamont asked her for help.

"I'm a Willimantic resident and a cat lover, and I agree with



Joan," Bisantz said. "We need to manage the cat population because animals are suffering and proliferating. She had a big part of the answer in this ordinance."

The ordinance states all cats older than 6 months must be spayed or neutered unless the owner buys a breeder's license. No unaltered cats may be allowed to roam, and there are restrictions regarding giving away kittens, including minimum age and vaccinations.

Research before design

The students researched cat-population control and town regulations before doing the designs,

but the heart of the project came from Lamont, students agreed.

"She really focused us in on what we needed to achieve," Lloyd Gevry, 42, of East Killingly said. "She showed us our compassion and helped us get our vision."

Gevry's design is one that will appear on a billboard. Ilana Kolodnicki, 24, of Oakdale also will see her work in lights.

"At first, I wasn't sure how to portray the concept," Kolodnicki said. "I was focused on showing what happened to these cats. But when we met the client, she wanted us to focus on the positive and congratulate the town, so I wanted to show the compassion and

AT A GLANCE

- To view T-shirt designs, visit www.junebisantz.com
- To order T-shirts, visit www.catsnortheast.org
- For spay and neuter assistance, call 942-9676.

love people have for their cats."

Lamont said praise for the town was in order.

"There was resistance at first. They (officials) don't know what it's all about, because the rescuers are the ones dealing with it," she said of constant overpopulation struggles. "I knew it would be up to me to promote it, and this seemed the best way."

In her research, Lamont uncovered a statistic stating 80 percent of the overpopulation problem was caused by 3 percent of the population.

"The ordinance won't affect that many people, but those it does will really change things," she said. "Many of these are the chronic offenders."

Lamont was thrilled with the designs.

"I was blown away," she said. "At first, I worried it would just be an assignment, but I was speechless when I saw the finished products."

T-shirts will be available to order through the CATS Northeast Web site. Proceeds will go into a spay-and-neuter fund.

"It's about having pride in your community," Lamont said. "People want this, and they need to let their towns know it means something to them."

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