

## Sneak peek?

BARRE — Folks who want to get a preview of coming attractions in the Granite City should swing by Studio Place Arts next Tuesday evening to see what the first installment in “The Stone Sculpture Legacy Project” will look like.

The sculpture project is one of the many local initiatives being underwritten with some of the money that former Barre businessman Charlie Semprebon left the city following his death in 2009. The first two pieces of public art will be created by sculptors Giuliano Cecchinelli Sr. and Heather Ritchie.

Cecchinelli and Ritchie, who recently impressed a jury of regional art experts with distinctly different proposals, will be at SPA from 6 to 7 p.m. next Tuesday with clay models of their newly commissioned sculptures.

Sue Higby, executive director at SPA, has volunteered to coordinate a project that, thanks to Semprebon, will support the creation of several new public sculptures in Barre.

Higby believes that’s a good thing, noting Barre’s historic development was linked to its talented visual artists and its future will be stronger if those qualities are supported.

“A community needs to make regular investments in its public artwork,” she says, predicting the legacy project will help position Barre as a “regional, creative force,” attract new residents and businesses, and be a source of “community pride.”

According to Higby, a second “call to artists” will go out sometime next summer for another installment of the legacy project. However, she says another Semprebon project — a sculptural granite bicycle rack — should be commissioned even sooner.