



Photo courtesy of Okauchee Lions Club

Standing with the donated lion-shaped bike rack in Okauchee Lions Park are donor Matt Dombrowski, Okauchee Lions Secretary Sandy Schick, student leader Curtis Flannick, Waukesha County Technical College instructor Joe Chaney, and Okauchee Lions President Jason McKellips.

WCTC students create lion bike rack for Okauchee Lions Club

OKAUCHEE — Bike riders won't find just any old rack in Okauchee Lions Park. Thanks to Waukesha County Technical College students, bikers can place their bicycles in a majestic lion made of stainless steel.

The project came about when Matt Dombrowski identified a need for a bike rack in the 13-plus acre park. Dombrowski then contacted his former neighbor, Lion Mike Schick, and donated money for a bike rack in the park located at N48-W34350 E. Wisconsin Ave.

While researching bike racks, Lion Sandy Schick looked for a lion-shaped bike rack but was unable to find one. In hopes of creating a lion shaped bike rack, she contacted Steve Walter, associate dean of Manufacturing Technologies at WCTC. Walter introduced her to Joe Chaney, a metal fabrication instructor who teaches Advanced Metal Fabrication. This class is the capstone class of the welding program during which students create final projects before graduation.

During the 2023 spring term, Curtis Flannick led fellow students, Austin Folkman and Kyle Anderson, in the creation of the bike rack. They designed and built the bike rack to perfectly sit on a previously existing con-



crete slab in the park. The project was larger than the term permitted with Flannick and Chaney completing the project in late summer. The bike rack was installed this fall.

“The beautiful lion-shaped bike rack will proudly stand in the park for many years. It is constructed of stainless steel with MIG and TIG welds to create its life-like appearance,” reads a press release. “Working with WCTC was a great partnership. The Okauchee Lions Club is always looking for ways to improve our park. This beautiful and unique bike rack is a wonderful addition.”