Hunt for the Wild Dala

Lindsborg,
A herd roams freely throughout the town!
Dala Räv - 505 N SECOND
This wild Dala celebrates Kansas’ four distinct seasons, each with its own beauty. A playful, curious fox (räv in Swedish) guides onlookers through nature’s gifts. Artist Deb McGaughey interprets the seasons for Seasons on behalf of the Fox Bed and Breakfast. Outdoors 24/7

Dalalujah! - 421 N FIRST
Dalalujah is a note of appreciation for the musically gifted volunteers participating in the Messiah Festival making Lindsborg’s tradition of Handel’s Messiah the longest continual performance in North America.

Blue Colla Dala - 215 HARRISON
This wild Dala is a workhorse. Dedicated to Smoky Valley’s working people, it stands ready to meet needs with integrity and innovation. Three rural Lindsborg residents had a hand in this: Robert and Mary Ann Johnson as sponsors and Shelly Carlson as artist. Outdoors 24/7

O’Lucky Dala - COLE & LINCOLN
Lindsborg is fortunate; the luck of the Irish came to Lindsborg in wild Dala form. O’Lucky Dala was created by artist Shirley Malm in honor of the O’Brien family. Outdoors 24/7

Hans Oliver - IN VIKING VALLEY AT SWENSSON PARK
Named and designed by local children, Hans Oliver features the traced outlines of childrens’ hands and a refreshing splash of primary colors. Artist Jennifer Hopp helped the children and carried out this Dala’s finishing touches. Sponsored by Lindsborg Arts Council. Outdoors 24/7

The Old Gray Dala Mare - 116 S MAIN
The Lindsborg Senior Center wants you to know that active, interested and good natured seniors round out this town’s herd. Artist Jennifer Hopp

Spirit of Generosity - 321 N CHESTNUT
The long history and traditions of Bethany Home are on display with this wild Dala, who roams the halls of the home on a wheeled platform. Artist Shirley Malm bestowed Spirit with photographs old and new, as well as enduring symbols of the Bethany Home’s special sense of place and purpose. Sponsored in honor of Eunice Smith and her extended family.

Kronor the Dollar Horse - 109 S MAIN
Kronor is named for the Swedish money unit, but it has the green-tinged features of a one-dollar bill. Thanks to artist Shirley Malm, a horse never looked so rich. Sponsored by Farmers State Bank. Outdoors 24/7

The Good Knight - 106 S MAIN
This pop art Dala celebrates the rich history of chess and the presence of the Anatoly Karpov School of Chess in Lindsborg. Painted by artist Matthew Richter. Outdoors 24/7

King Oscar - 134 N MAIN
Let’s all toast the social traditions of many Swedes and Swedish-Americans with a cup (or three) of coffee. Artist Shirley
Dalamation - 201 N MAIN
Sven, a character in Scandinavian humor, rides to the rescue on a Dalmatian-spotted wild Dala horse in this piece by Ken Sjögren and Ken Swisher. What would a firefighter - or a dog - be without a hydrant? Outdoors 24/7

Holi - Dala - 201 N MAIN
Artist and sponsor Shirley Malm treasures the holiday traditions of Lindsborg, so she created a wild Dala to celebrate community customs. From concerts to the spirit of gentle giving, the holidays in Lindsborg embody both community and Scandinavian traditions.

Rörmokarens Vän/Plumber’s Friend - 135 N MAIN
Sponsored by grandchildren of Carl and Esther Anderson, this classically decorated Dala celebrates two traditional Swedes: Carl Anderson, a Lindsborg plumber who avoided personal timepieces but was prompt for every appointment, and Esther Anderson who whipped up treats from the kitchen with no recipe. Their grandchildren say that Mormor and Morfar Anderson “just knew.” Outdoors 24/7

Gyllene Dala - 202 N MAIN
Gyllene (Golden) Dala’s coat depicts the Bank of Tescott’s 125-plus years of rootedness in Kansas, its people, and its recognition of the value of rural places. Golden Dala reminds us of the rich Kansas landscape upon which we all call for meaning and support. Sponsored by Bank of Tescott. Outdoors 24/7

Dancer Dala - 128 N MAIN
Lindsborg’s love of folk dancing takes center stage in this design by Shirley Malm. The Lindsborg Swedish Folk Dancers (Smoky Valley High School dance troupe) tour widely, as do Lindsborg Folkdanslag (adult Swedish folk dance troupe). Sponsored by Ron and Marsha Rolander of Lindsborg. Outdoors 24/7

Dalallama Telecomma - 127 N MAIN
Artist Steve Scott’s postmodern wordplay comes alive in the Dalallama’s giant telephone handsets, commas and Tibetan themes. With its third eye, this wild Dala is watching you. Sponsored by Jim & Kathy Richardson. Outdoors 24/7

Hello, Dalai - NEAR MAIN & LINCOLN
Lindsborg’s outdoor theater troupe, Broadway RFD, celebrates more than five decades of productions. This Dala honors the many people who helped found and nurture this tradition. Hello Dalai is sponsored by Friends of RFD and painted by Gretchen Elliott of Lindsborg. Outdoors 24/7

Herd It Through the Grapevine - 114 S MAIN
For the Lindsborg News-Record, where ears are always open, Shirley Malm wound grapes and vines around this wild Dala. Miss Anna C., named for a former editor, sports a classy touch of gold ribbon. Sponsored by Montgomery Communications. Outdoors 24/7

Yankee Doodle Dala - NEAR MAIN & LINCOLN
Both U.S. and Swedish flags fly high as this wild Dala horse sponsored by Duane & Kally Tuttle marches onto the scene. The design by Dan Gottneid makes you want to salute. Outdoors 24/7
Blossom - 103 N MAIN
Artist Jennifer Hopp richly bestowed Blossom with flowers, a traditional symbol of Midsummer’s Day. Flowers are fashioned into crowns called blomkrans, both in Lindsborg and Sweden. Sponsored by the Lindsborg Arts Council. Outdoors 24/7

Fala the Dala Brick Road - NEAR MAIN & LINCOLN
This wild Dala horse recognizes Lindsborg’s brick streets, first hand-laid almost a century ago and saved from asphalting in 1967. Created by artist Kathy Peterson and sponsored by the City of Lindsborg, Fala proudly bears street utility covers. Outdoors 24/7

Dalahlippus Lindsborgensis - 121 W LINCOLN
Said to be unearthed from the foot of Coronado Heights north of Lindsborg, the Dalahlippus is proof that Dala horses are native to the Kansas plains, not Sweden. Thanks to artist Lee Becker, Tyrannosaurus Rex has nothing on Lindsborg’s most famous fossil. Sponsored by the Swedish Country Inn. Outdoors 24/7

Dialing for Dreams - 118 E LINCOLN
Lindsborg artist John Heter embellishes upon a well-known work by French modernist Henri Rousseau to celebrate the invention of dial telephone technology by Lindsborg’s John and Charles Erickson in the late 1800s. The Ericksons did their early patented work in a red farm shed now preserved at the Old Mill Museum. Sponsored by the SBC Foundations and friends of John Heter. Outdoors 24/7

The Freemount Filly - 113 N MAIN
Native Americans peered in the windows during the first service conducted at Freemount Lutheran Church in Fremont, just a few miles southwest of Lindsborg. Sponsors Verne and Nancy Lundquist commissioned this wild Dala by artist Eldon Swensson in honor of the Lundquist’s pioneer family. Outdoors 24/7

Ambassadala - 111 S MAIN
As word spread of Lindsborg’s unusual herd, the town sponsored Ambassadala, a roaming horse to carry greetings regionally and nationally. Artist Shirley Malm even gave Ambassadala an official medallion to certify his ambassadorial status. Inside the Lindsborg Community Library.

Uppsa Dala Airways - 111 S MAIN
It’s the perfect way to fly: Uppsa Dala goes anywhere your imagination takes you! Thanks to some friends of designer Gene Holdsworth, Lindsborg has its own memorable air service. Inside the Lindsborg Community Library.

Millie Gram - 321 N CHESTNUT
Sponsored by AuBurn Pharmacy, and painted a deep blue with traditional Swedish floral designs, the newest Dala in the herd sports a name with an intentional pun on “milligram,” a common term in pharmacy work. Outdoors 24/7

Tryggare the Dala Häst Päst - MAIN & OLSSON
The Carlson Family released this wild Dala to celebrate the lives of all Augustana-trained Lutheran ministers, particularly those of the late bothers Rev. Elmore Carlson and Rev. Perry Carlson. Artist Lee Becker created the image of an old-fashioned minister. Outdoors 24/7
Salvador Dala - 126 S MAIN
The Painting and Design Class of Smoky Valley High School created this clever send up of surrealist artist Salvador Dali. Love those flying cows! Sponsored by the Hodges Family in memory of former school board member Dr. Melissa Ann Hodges. Outdoors 24/7

Queen Katarina Ditto - 201 S MAIN
Queen Katarina is the mother of all Lindsborg’s wild Dala horses. Carved in solid wood and decorated by craftsmen at the Hemslojd, the Queen helped create the mold for other wild Dalas. Inside Peoples Bank & Trust 8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday / 8:30am – 12pm, Saturday.

Two Bits, Four Bits, Six Bits, A Dala - 201 S MAIN
Bethany College sports teams now have a wild Dala mascot, thanks to a team of Bethany alumni including Mark & Marty Schupbach, Rick & Viki Samson, Jan & Lo Jean Oleen, Chuck & Judy Falkenberg, Leon & Judy Burch and Ken & Marilyn Sjogren. Bethany College student Erin Burk prepared Two Bits to play in any game - and win! Outdoors 24/7

The Methodist Mare - 224 S MAIN
Methodism’s founder, Rev. John Wesley, rode 250,000 miles on a horse as a circuit-riding minister. His brother Charles composed many Christian hymns. Local artist Maleta Forsberg acknowledged both men in sponsoring and decorating a horse for Trinity United Methodist Church. Outdoors 24/7

Bethania Blanka - 320 N MAIN
Painted by Rose Marie Wallen, Bethania Blanka represents Bethany’s historic congregation symbolized by images of the 1869 pioneer church and the present church. Outdoors 24/7

Hingst Ledare (Stallion Leader) - 118 N MAIN
Painted by artist Shirley Malm, Hingst Ledare features stylized paintings that pictorially tell the history of the First Bank Kansas building and the farming heritage of the first settlers of the Smoky Valley. Sponsored by First Bank Kansas. Outdoors 24/7

Legacy - 102 N MAIN
Researched and painted by well-regarded Swedish kurbit painter Carla J Griffith’s Wilson, Legacy commemorates just a few of the many significant people and places of Lindsborg’s first 150 years. Emulating the Americana crazy quilt pattern, one side of Legacy features community representations from 1869 - 1944 and the other side covers the years 1945 - 2019. (Pro-tip: Be sure to thoroughly search Legacy for a Sven and Ole joke.) Outdoors 24/7

Lullaby - 112 W Lincoln
In April, baby Lullaby joined the herd. In the care of Dröm Sött Inn, she rests close to home at 112 W Lincoln Street. “Trained” by Ken Sjogren and “groomed” by Angeline Collier, you’ll love this sweet new addition to the herd.

Sol Foal, a Midsummers Dala - Roving Location
Nick-named “Sol Foal,” with a nod to the summer solstice, this Dala was painted with the colors of the rainbow, two thumbprints at a time, on June 15, 2019 at Lindsborg’s Midsummer’s Festival.
“Only in Lindsborg!” - It’s a phrase often uttered about Little Sweden USA. Founded by Swedish immigrants in 1868, Lindsborg emerged from an unusual blend of cultural heritage, education, visual arts, agriculture, music, theater and more than its share of independent thinkers.

It’s fitting that Lindsborg is home to the nation’s only herd of wild Dala horses. What is a Dala horse? It is perhaps Sweden’s best known icon, a bluntly rounded, tail-free horse. It is thought that the Dala were first whittled out of wood by the fire during long cold Scandinavian nights. Lindsborg adopted the Swedish folk craft Dala as a symbol of identity and welcome. You’ll see traditional Dala horses on front porches, on coffee mugs and even on the side of police cruisers in Lindsborg.

In 2000, the first traditional Dala shape was cast in a large fiberglass form – an idea patterned after Chicago’s cows on Michigan Avenue. Each wild Dala, sponsored by local people and folks with Lindsborg connections, is unconventionally decorated by the town’s local artists.