

Jeff Around Town – October 18th, 2024

Jeff: Jeff Koterba with you on this Friday morning. Time now for another edition of Jeff Around Town. So why was Stonehenge built? You know, that prehistoric megalithic structure in England. One theory is that it was built as a place of worship. And well, how about those ancient and mysterious stone spheres of Costa Rica? Some archeologists suggest that perhaps the spheres represent the solar system.

But then closer to home, right here in the Omaha Council Bluffs Metro, rocks and stones that have been carefully and beautifully painted. Rocks and stones placed randomly in our area and far beyond. The rocks in question were first discovered in Iowa, in and around Council Bluffs. Have you heard about these? Have you seen them? Well, over time, these mysterious rocks began appearing elsewhere on the Omaha side of the Missouri, but also in places such as Des Moines and even Ontario, Canada.

Now, maybe you know the secrets. Maybe you're in on this mystery. I, however, was unaware until recently, I was at a car dealership talking to the finance person, Rich Becerra. Rich and I were talking about business and numbers when I became distracted by a funny painted face staring back at me from, you guessed it, a rock. A rock on Rich's desk. When I inspected the back of the rock, I noticed a strange numerical code, 712 Rocks.

It turned out that Rich and his wife, Karina, along with countless other humans, have been in on this mystery since at least 2017. And that's about the time that the Facebook page, 712 Rocks, was launched, a Facebook group with nearly 7,000 members. 7,000 people on a really cool secret.

Now, what's this mystery all about? Well, humans, maybe just like you, find rocks, paint them in a fun or beautiful way, and then place them in parks, along sidewalks and other random places. And then, if you find one, you can post a photo of it on the 712 Rocks Facebook page. Now, Karina says that she started painting them with her grandkids and along with her husband, they've probably painted at least 200 rocks over the years. Rocks painted like corn, peapods, and funny faces. One rock they left at Adventureland in Des Moines landed in Canada. They learned of its adventure because a photo of it showed up on Facebook.

Now, some people find them and then rock it forward, you might say, replanting them for others to find, while still others love the rocks so much, they keep them. And either way, Karina and Rich say it's a joy to take part. When they go for their walks, they're always on the hunt for new rocks to turn into their canvases.

This may be a classical station, but, well, there's no reason you can't rock, and you don't even have to live in the 712 area code. Wherever you are right now, you can take part. It's simple. You find a rock, paint it in a beautiful or amusing way, then replant it along with the 712 Rocks Facebook information on the back. It's super easy to find Facebook 712 Rocks. And who knows, maybe your rock will one day show up in Canada, or better yet, at Stonehenge.

And that's another Jeff Around Town.