

# Sculpting for LabCorp



Garry Boyce has been commissioned by LabCorp to create a sculpture.

Photo by Patrick Womack

By **PATRICK WOMACK**

*Womack Publishing Services*

A local artist has been chosen by LabCorp to create a massive sculpture that will stand in front of the company's new headquarters.

Garry Boyce, a Hillsborough resident who has operated a studio on North Fifth St. for the past year, said the sculpture will stand 34 feet tall and will possibly be one of the largest of its kind.

Boyce said the sculpture should be completed and installed by early June. LabCorp's new headquarters is located at 348 S. Main St. in downtown Burlington.

He said the stainless steel sculpture will be an abstract form of a helix and is modeled after the company's logo. The helix shape represents a complete strand of DNA.

LabCorp is one of the world's largest clinical laboratories, employing more than 24,000. The firm provides genomic and esoteric testing.

"LabCorp wanted something big," said Boyce.

"They said, 'we're not coming to you for something we can find at Wal-Mart. We want this to make a statement.'"

Boyce said the sculpture with base will stand approximately 40 feet tall altogether. The six-foot high concrete base, which was designed separately, will include

fountains and other water features.

Boyce said the sculpture will also be illuminated, adding that the stainless steel will feature a swirling pattern that grabs and reflects light for an interesting aesthetic effect.

Through his own research, Boyce said he was not able to find another stainless steel sculpture comparable in size to the one he is creating.

He said aluminum is more commonly used in larger sculptures, since the weight and density of steel presents significant challenges once a sculpture passes a certain size.

"I haven't seen anything this big. It's a big challenge, but it's entirely doable," said Boyce.

"You have to dream big."

Because of its size, Boyce said the sculpture will have to be constructed in three separate pieces before being transported to the site and welded together.

He will be assisted in the project by friend Jim Adams. Work should begin within the next two weeks.

Boyce said he has been doing metal work for the past 10 years, noting that he is completely self-taught. He has spent the last five years working as a full-time artist.

"I love to create art that everyone can enjoy," said Boyce. "It's the passion of