

# Woodstock monument sculptor dead at 52

BY SANDY TOMCHO

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**BLOOMINGBURG** — Wayne “Woodstock” Saward of Bloomingburg, the man who designed and sculpted the Woodstock monument at the site of the 1969 concert in Bethel, died Monday in Middletown. He was 52.

A graduate of Pine Bush High School, Saward was a resident of Bloomingburg much of his life. He made the 5½-ton cast-iron and concrete Woodstock Monument, which was poured in 1984.

“He wanted to go to the Woodstock concert, but his older brother wouldn’t take him. I think he was 11 or 12 years old at the time. He thought about sneaking out, but he was too young,” said his wife, Nina Saward. “He always dreamed of putting a monument up there. It was his dream and he never looked to make any money off of it.”

A drummer, Saward loved music and performed in various bands throughout high school. He also camped at the Bethel site every August for about 30 years and was involved in the Woodstock community, something the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts recognized and appreciated.

“We are saddened to hear of Wayne’s passing, and the staff of Bethel Woods sends their condolences to his family,” said Bethel Woods Chief Operating Officer Darlene Fedun. “His monument to the Woodstock festival is known by fans around the world, and it has been a favorite with our visitors. We know that people will continue to enjoy his work for years to come.”

“He’s always been into music, and he’s very artistic, too,” Nina said. “He could draw anything you asked. He was also so charismatic. People were drawn to him.”

Saward had been ill for some time.



Photo Provided/NINA SAWARD

**Wayne “Woodstock” Saward, who designed and sculpted the 5½-ton monument to Woodstock, died Monday at age 52.**

## ON THE WEB

For a photo gallery of Wayne Saward and the Woodstock monument, visit: [www.recordonline.com](http://www.recordonline.com)