



## Planning Ahead

BEAUTIFICATION projects for the Farmington Hills elementary schools were kicked off at a luncheon recently in the Farmington Community Center. Competing for the awards offered by the Farmington Hills Beautification

Commission are (from left) Paul Rufus, from Wooddale; Barbara Moehlman, representing the commission; Linda Osberg, from Wooddale, and Patty Bolen from Eagle. (Photo by Fran Evert)

## Beautification Commission Kicks Off School Contest

The Farmington Hills Beautification Commission is looking forward to another year of improvement projects at Farmington elementary schools, Chairman Jan Dolan told the Farmington Hills council recently.

One of the major projects for the commission has been the sponsorship of the annual awards presented for the efforts of elementary school

students improving the school grounds.

The commission kicked off next year's award program recently at the Farmington Community Center. Students representing each school in the program heard what last year's award winners did.

Dorothy Cox, from Westbrook School in Clarenceville, showed slides to the city council demonstrating

the efforts which earned the school a second place award last year.

Students at Westbrook began the project two years ago, assessing the landscaping at the school and deciding the improvements they wanted.

Mrs. Cox took nearly an hour to show all the projects completed by the students.

Some of those completed were:

- Laying out, planting, and laying wood chips on nature trails.
- Building playground equipment out of posts, pipe and old tires.
- Constructing a compost heap and using it for the landscaping activities.
- Constructing a memorial garden in the courtyard.
- Planting a school garden.
- Landscaping the school was worked into the curriculum of the school, and the result was an endless series of surprises, Mrs. Cox said.

Such as the time a student brought in a twig with a cocoon on it and it was pinned on the bulletin board, later to hatch into a moth.

The entire cost of the program was paid for by the PTA, which raised \$400 at a pancake supper, Mrs. Cox said.

But judging from her presentation, it took more than dollars to finish the job.

## Homeowners: The Voice Of People?

By MARTHA MAHAN

"Quite a bit" of pressure exists for Farmington Hills to become "another Southfield," and the homeowners council intends to combat it.

From a "crisis organization" the Council of Homeowners Assns. has reorganized to keep continuous watch over day-to-day city operations and any plans for change, according to Joseph Alkateeb, treasurer and public relations chairman.

"Once a man becomes a city official, he seems to think he's become a god," Alkateeb asserted. "He gets the idea that he knows what's good for people, more than they do themselves."

"A lot of people moved here in the first place because of the country atmosphere, and it should be maintained for them to a certain degree," he said.

Homeowner Council officers maintain they are saved from confusing themselves with gods because of their general membership meetings, which Chairman Richard Maicki likened to the old-time, New England town meetings.

"The basic unit in Farmington Hills is the subdivision," he said. "People living there know what their interests are and how things affect them. Then we all get together and take their interests at heart and go to work on it."

"The homeowner, as an individual, has no representa-

tion despite his elected officials," Maicki declared. "The only way to know what the public really wants is through homeowner associations."

From his homeowner contacts, Alkateeb feels most folks in Farmington Hills "don't want anything more than the basic services: fire and police protection, better road maintenance and the like."

"They're not looking for garbage collections, though that will be a big problem some day, and they're not totally worried about parks, because each subdivision has its own commons land," he said.

What they are worried about are a scheduled extension of Northwestern Highway, zoning, school taxes, and how the 40 per cent of the city which still is undeveloped will be allowed to grow.

To keep up to date on such activities, the council has at least one member in attendance at meetings of the city council, planning commission and appeals board and "sometimes at school board meetings."

"We keep pretty good track" of what's going on in officialdom, Maicki said.

Farmington Hills numbers 41 subdivisions, and Alkateeb said 23 are Council members. The remaining 18 represent small or older subdivisions, he said, and to encourage

Continued on Page 3A

## Goodfellows Need Toys

Farmington Goodfellows still need toys, helpers and the names of needy families.

The annual effort to insure "no child is without a Christmas" is funded by the annual paper drive.

Volunteers will be selling papers on Farmington street corners until 7 p.m. Friday.

Money raised by the drive helps to finance the distribution of baskets of food to needy families.

Help is still needed in finding the needy families, sorting and packing the boxes, and delivering them, Goodfellow officials say.

The Farmington Elks is still looking for contributions to their "toys for tots" program.

The Elks want new or used toys in good condition to add to the baskets. This year they do not have a major commercial contributor, and

are depending mainly on individual contributions.

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce office at Farmington and Grand River is acting as a clearing house for the various Goodfellow projects.

Volunteers and persons with names to suggest or toys to donate are asked to contact the chamber office.

Toys may also be dropped off at the Elks lodge.

## what's inside

Concert breaks even .....	3A
Kids of 3 faiths view season ....	11A
Mercy girls reach semis .....	24A
Classified Ads .....	Sec. B
Coming Events .....	6
Community Calendar .....	3A
Deaths .....	14
Focus: Suburbia .....	11
Home and Garden .....	22,23
Leisure .....	4-6,10
Observing Life .....	15-19
Sports .....	20,21,24
Turf Tips .....	20