

UPROOTED

Dunckel's landmark is saved

By RON GARBINSKI

A year-long campaign to save a Dunckel Junior High "School landmark" ended Wednesday afternoon in success as a 136-foot crane began to lift an old tree from the school's courtyard.

The save-the-tree dreams were realized as the 25-foot Dunckel Douglas Fir tree was transplanted from the interior courtyard to the front of the Twelve Mile building.

As the 28-year-old tree was lifted over the roof, the students cheered and the school's choir belted out "America the Beautiful," a perfect tribute to the year-long struggle to save the tree.

Local city officials and school administrators joined the students to witness the memorial event.

"Since the fall, Dunckel students have been selling magazines, Christmas wreaths, candy bars and collecting proof-of-purchase seals from consumer products to raise funds needed to transplant the tree and beautify the grounds," explains Dunckel Principal Donald Kern.

If the needed funds weren't collected, the tree would have been destroyed to make room for a new annex to the industrial arts department and expansion of the media center and main office.

BUT THE STUDENTS' dreams were realized last week as Laramie Crane Co. and the Charles Irish Landscapers donated more than \$1,000 worth of services to aid the Dunckel project.

Irish landscapers and Laramie workers

came to the students' rescue when they heard about the desire to transplant the tree and beautify the school grounds.

"For the past several months, the Dunckel Beautification Committee has been planting new trees and shrubs around the front of the building," says student council adviser Mark Gosselin. "What the students and parents are doing is completely re-landscaping the entire school site."

A pair of redwood signs, made by the school's shop classes, will be situated among the central, raised bed of trees, shrubs and flowers.

Concern about the tree began several years ago when the district began worrying about the small Dunckel library and

made recommendations to expand it. Its media center is the smallest of secondary school libraries in the district, so plans were formalized to remodel the facilities.

Several months ago, Kern thought something should be done to save the old tree that otherwise would be removed to make way for the new annex.

So the student council started fund-raising projects and the beautification committee began making landscaping plans.

Now, the old Douglas Fir has become the showcase of Dunckel Junior High because students cared enough to save the tree.

Student Council President Karen Stoychoff forgot about her worries Wednesday as the Dunckel Douglas Fir is readied to be transplanted.

Staff
photos
by

Harry Mauthe

As the Douglas Fir was lifted over the Dunckel roof, students cheered and the school choir belted out "America the Beautiful."

One clue leads to another as cops solve city crimes

It was a busy week for the Farmington Public Safety Department.

Officers solved three gas station robberies: three Dairy Queen burglaries and arrested two juveniles on a breaking and entering charge last week.

Det. Sgt. Murray Switzer and Tom Daniels arrested two males wanted in connection with the armed robbery of two Farmington service stations.

Richard Humbarger, 21, Detroit, was arraigned Thursday in 6th District Court before Judge Michael Hand. He was charged

with the robbery of a Gulf 181 station 3123 Grand River and a Maverick station 3285 Grand River last April.

Bond for Humbarger was set at \$40,000 and a preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 28 at 9:30 a.m.

He also is wanted in Detroit on an armed robbery charge.

Larry Senger, 27, Dearborn, who is being held in custody by Dearborn police on an armed robbery charge is wanted by the Farmington department for his sus-

pected role in the two gas station robberies.

SWINGER ALSO is wanted by the Southfield Police Department for an armed robbery attempt.

While investigating leads in the gas station robberies, detectives gained information as to the suspects' role in a December 1975 armed robbery of the same Max truck gas station.

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Exchange of ideas opens eyes of students, trustees

By RON GARBINSKI

Farmington high school students might not always be right, but at least they are given the opportunity to express their feelings.

In its fifth year, the Farmington Student Roundtable is a vehicle by which high school students can discuss ideas with school board members and administrators.

Students can review problems and suggest solutions that trustees take back to the board of education for consideration.

"For me, it was a valuable learning experience getting to know the board members," explains Mark Chiles, a North Farmington junior and Roundtable member.

"It wasn't a place where we went to get things done. Rather, it was a place where we could meet and explain to board members our views on what our school needs."

Two members and two alternates were elected by the student bodies from each of the district's three senior high schools to serve as Roundtable representatives for the 1975-76 school year.

The group met once a month for a luncheon meeting with board members and administrators to talk about what was happening in the Farmington district.

"I REALLY learned a lot from the meetings," adds Diann Kim, a senior from Harrison High, who also acted as chairwoman of the student group.

"As I see it, our ideas were well received by the board. They listened to our

Scholarships are awarded

Two Farmington Hills seniors have won prestigious Student Life Scholarships to attend Oakland University this fall.

The recipients are: Susan DeYoung, 2080 Dundalk Lane and Victoria Kimler, 2081 Mingwood Court.

At Harrison High School, Miss DeYoung was active in tennis, softball, the German Club, National Honor Society, and the literary magazine staff. She plans to major in biology.

Miss Kimler was active in band, track, choir, National Honor Society and was a Michigan Competitive Semifinalist. She also plans to major in biology.

The Student Life Scholarships are based on academic achievements and on school and community activities. The awards go towards a student's residence hall living costs.

views and we always spoke our minds," she says.

Sure, there always was a conflict of views and opinions, but a great deal of respect existed between both sides and the board. Even though they are board members and we are students, they listened to what we had to say.

The students said there was always a lengthy discussion of topics and what the students and board could do about the problems.

"They (the board members) were very receptive. If they didn't agree with what we had to say about the topic, they told us," continues Steve Corlies, a junior from Farmington High School.

Let's just say I learned as much from them as I hope they learned from us."

Roundtable discussed several important topics during its nine meetings, including vandalism, parental concern, student apathy about parking lots, and the district's budget.

When reviewing the budget, the students suggested areas in which they thought money could be better spent. They also considered adding more money to the girls' sports program.

While the agenda may not have benefited directly from these discussions, the students were satisfied knowing the board members understood their points of view and desires.

"MANY STUDENTS feel the board of education is way up there on the hill. When we sat down with them, we talked in a formal and discussed whatever was on our minds," says Matt Kletter, a junior from Harrison.

"You really have to know what you are saying when you talk to these people. I realized I have to organize my thoughts better if I discuss problems with others," he continues.

Roundtable students learned how school administration works, how the school board functions and how budgets are set up.

"While we were exposed to all these things," Kletter says, "we learned a great deal about democracy. We learned what it takes to operate a school district and how student input can help."

"Roundtable is an outlet that must remain open. We may not be using it to its fullest, but it needs to be there in the future to serve as a line of communication with the board members," he believes.

While most students mentioned the advantages of Roundtable, several also stressed the problems the group experienced.

"WE ARE STUDENTS involved in other

activities at the schools," says Ms. Kim. Since we met during lunch time, it was sometimes difficult to get everyone together.

Another problem I thought the group had was that we didn't meet often enough. We met once a month at the administration building from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

"That just wasn't enough time to accomplish everything we wanted to," she continues.

Corlies was quick to agree with Ms. Kim, saying he would like the committee to meet after school and another meeting to its monthly schedule.

"It is good to have students on boards and committees, but we really can't accomplish much during school hours. If we had more time, instead of just meeting during lunch once a month, we probably could have gotten more done," Corlies says.

The consensus of the board members was that the Roundtable did achieve a sense of awareness and communications between themselves and the students.

"A great number of topics were discussed, and that provided a forum for reactions to each participant's comments," says Leona Schulman, assistant superintendent of secondary schools.

"It was amazing how much restraint the board members showed the students and how much attention the trustees gave them," he continues.

"It was a good to have school officials experience this regular contact with students because they are now exposed to different points of view."

"MOST BOARD members have been away from the classroom setting for some time, and these students gave them input that they might not have considered otherwise," Schulman adds.

Roundtable participants were glad to be involved in the monthly discussions and said it was a good experience to have as they prepare for college.

"It served more than one purpose," says Chiles. "I can speak better now in front of adults, and I've learned how to communicate ideas. It was a total learning experience."

While only a few interested high school students attended the meetings, Roundtable members said enthusiasm is building at the three high schools for next year.

The Roundtable members have talked with their student bodies, and many students are willing to take part in the program.

"Eventually, Roundtable will help to make things better in our schools," concludes Ms. Kim. "It's important that students get involved, and Roundtable is one way they can make their feelings heard."