

Neighborhood mailbox spruce-up gives a new look to Greencastle sub

Bad news and bills—that's all part of the mailbox biz.

Although those two pieces of mail are common enough, they still give the boxes a bad name. Little wonder homeowners sometimes ignore the metal containers during clean-up, paint-up campaigns.

But residents of Greencastle subdivision in Farmington Hills recently decided to give the dented metal containers a fresh coat of paint and a new lease on life. And to sweeten the project, the subdivision association turned the chore into a contest.

For two months, homeowners painted and primed the usually overlooked mailboxes in attempts to capture the \$20 first prize, \$15 second prize, \$10 third prize and \$5 fourth place award.

Boxes were decorated to match the styles of their owner's homes.

Terry Stenerson's plain brown mailbox with a welcoming knot of flowers planted around the post matched his white trimmed colonial. The Greencastle subdivision mailboxes were judged by members of the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission, Susan Zurilla and Carolyn McQuiggan.

THEY LIKED THE way the Stenerson mailbox complemented his home, so his efforts were awarded the first prize.

"It's just cement and flowers," said Stenerson, modestly.

"I was going to fix it up anyway," he explained. "I ran it down last winter in the snow."

Second prize went to Diane and Ron Brohl. Their new mailbox swings from an arrangement of cedar posts inspired by a picture in a magazine.

Brohl worked three days on the project, replacing the steel posts with cedar.

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"It was about average," said Mrs. Brohl of their letter container.

Ethnic and civic pride blended when Barbara and Dan Osowski fixed up their mailbox.

Osowski, a gym teacher at Wood Creek Elementary School, painted a white Polish eagle on a red background onto a plaque that swings from their red mailbox.

The idea for the design came from their son, Chris, 9, who saw the picture in a Polish coloring book.

DAUGHTER Claudia, 9, became part of the project when she helped her dad hold up the wooden post for the mailbox.

Mindful of all that help, Osowski split the \$10 third prize with his children, giving them \$2.50 each.

The fifth place was captured by Adria and Shelly Myeroff, who spruced up their mailbox with fresh paint and a plaque.

Bills and bad news will still find their way into the Greencastle subdivision, but at least they'll be contained in a pretty mailbox.



Diane Brohl decided to refurbish her mailbox when her husband brought home some old birchwood. (Staff photo)



Barbara Osowski added an ethnic touch to her mailbox by hanging a plaque adorned with a Polish eagle. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Obituaries

GERTRUDE CHMIEL

Services for Mrs. Chmiel, 69, were Oct. 16 at Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church, Farmington. Officiating was Monsignor Thomas Behan. A rosary was said at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Survivors are: husband, Cass; daughters, Mrs. Joan LaChance, Mrs. Sally Zuteck, and Mrs. Sue Cary; a son, Mike; and sisters, Mrs. Lucille Williams and Mrs. Germaine Hilderbrandt.

RICHARD HATFIELD

Services for Mr. Hatfield, 33, were in the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington. Officiating was the Rev. J. Kenneth Hoffmaster. Interment was in Oakwood Cemetery.

A resident of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., he formerly lived in Farmington. He was a 1963 graduate of Farmington High School and attended Michigan State University.

Survivors are: wife, Roberta; parents, John and Alice; daughter, Debra; and three sons, Mark, Steven and Brian.

HENRYETTA BECKTOLD

Services for Mrs. Becktold, 72, of Redford Township, were in the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Officiating was the Rev. J. Kenneth Hoffmaster.

Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery. She is survived by: daughter, Ruth Gilbertson; and three sons, Al, William and John.

FREDERICK MILLER

Services for Mr. Miller, 74, of Farmington, were held in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, Officiating was High Priest Donald Owens.

Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery. Mr. Miller was a church organist from 1920-75 and was a member of the band for the senior citizens at the Meeting Place. He was a financial analyst for Ford Motor Company for 27 years as well as being a priest in his church since the 1930s.

Survivors are: his wife, Edith Copper Miller; daughter, Mrs. Kathryn McCracken; sons, James, Thomas and Frederick; sister, Mrs. Mary Cartmill and one brother, Edwin Miller.

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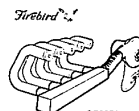
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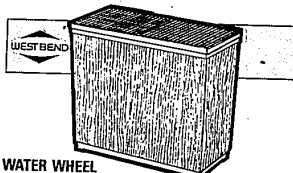
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