

Winner saved from harm in car seat

Most Beautiful Baby title goes to Erich Meier

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

One year old Erich Meier took the lion's share of the votes for the title of Farmington Area's "Most Beautiful Baby" in the contest sponsored by the Farmington Area Jayettes.

Baby boys swept the field this spring who were judged on beauty alone from their photos with votes coming from and tallied by senior adults in The Gathering Place.

Erich, son of Mr. and Mrs. Werner Meier of 29200 Westmont Court, Farmington Hills, edged out Justin Spitzer who took the second place spot.

Justin, who is known as Pete, is the 14-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Spitzer of Farmington. He will receive a \$35 gift certificate from Richard's Girls and Boys Wear.

Eleven-month-old Jeff Fannon took third place and a \$25 gift certificate from Richard's Girls and Boys Wear. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Brian Fannon of Novi.

Chris Meier, Erich's mother, said she was thrilled to learn her son had won the contest, but doesn't know what she'll do with the first prize of a GM car seat. She already has four.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL baby contest is sponsored by Farmington Area Jayettes in promotion of the group's

"The car was hit on the passenger side, where Erich was and smashed so badly it had to be towed away, but he wasn't hurt at all."

Buckle Up Babes (BUBS) program.

Members in the local chapter, along with sister chapters throughout the state, promote BUBS by spreading the word of the safety factor inherent in the construction of the car seats developed by GM, which cradles and protects the child in the event of an accident.

Chris Meier gives personal testimony to the seats' safety after her car was hit broadside just a few weeks ago on Middlebelt Road and Grand River.

"The car was hit on the passenger side where Erich was, and smashed so badly it had to be towed away, but he wasn't hurt at all," she said.

"One baby and four car seats sounds funny I guess. We've outgrown the infant seat and I've already loaned that out. We have one for his size now in each of our two cars, and we've already purchased the next size seat for him to grow into."

Erich travels in his car seat to his

grandmother's house several days a week for stays while his mother works as an occupational therapist for Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. He also uses the seat while traveling to toddler's swim classes in Farmington YMCA.

Farmington's most beautiful baby got a backyard swimming pool for his first birthday, on April 28, but his mother isn't too sure that will get much use.

"He's been swimming since he was two months old at Cass Lake where we lived before we moved here (six months ago) and then at the Y," she said. "That pool for the yard is going to look pretty small to him."

THE CONTEST this spring was the second such annual event and each has been a success in terms of alerting residents to the importance of buckling up their babies.

The success for the Jayettes comes in the number of calls the group receives for inquiries about the car seats and the number of seats that members put out for rental.

Purchase price of the seats are high since each of three sizes can only be used for short periods of time depending on the baby's weight.

In promotion of the seat and its safety factors, the local chapter purchased 50 of them for residents to rent.

They are flame-resistant, lightweight, easily carried, easy to store when not in use, and developed by GM after years of research.

Research began when statistics showed that about 1,000 infant and toddler passengers under the age of four could be expected to be killed in a year's time.

Jayette Gale Raben is in charge of car seat rentals for the group and can be reached by calling her at 478-2945.

Sandy Winton was this year's chairman of the Most Beautiful Baby contest.



The auto patch on Erich Meier's shirt stems from his father's love of cars and his affiliation with Corvette Club of Michigan. Erich's socks are a

gift from his Swiss grandmother who has kept the toddler supplied with knee-highs since his birth. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Master gardener to give 2 lectures

Master gardener Bob Armstrong will be in Farmington Community Center for two lecture-workshops this spring to aid area gardeners.

Both events are free and both are sponsored by the center in cooperation with Michigan State University and Oakland County Cooperative Extension Service.

"Spring Vegetable Garden Workshop" begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21. Armstrong will offer handy hints for the novice who is planning a first garden, and he will answer ques-

tions from the seasoned garden devotee.

"Ornamental Trees and Shrubs" begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, when the gardener will talk about the correct care of these trees and shrubs as well as proper planting techniques.

Farmington Community Center is located at 24703 Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile Road.

Although the talks are without charge, the center requests reservations by calling 477-8404.



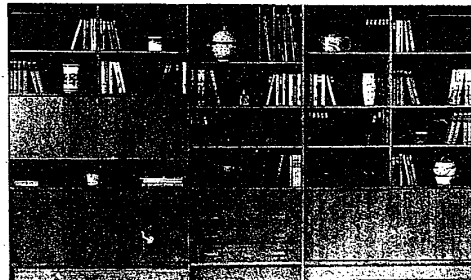
A new pear tree

Arbor Day never passes without a new tree placed in the city by Farmington Beautification Committee. And this spring was no exception. A new Bradford pear tree will be blooming in the city cemetery, planted by

Stewart Meredith, Carol Kurth and Jackie Steuer. Meredith is chairman of Arbor Day activities. Mrs. Kurth and Mrs. Steuer are committee chairwomen. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

WE ARE LIQUIDATING OUR ENTIRE INVENTORY

At Least 30% OFF and up to 50% OFF All Merchandise.



Our D5000 measures 72 1/2" h x 126 1/2" w x 14" d, and is available in teak. This high quality wall system also has dividers and TV shelves.

\$589

9 Left
Assembly and
Delivery Extra



brasch
interiors, inc.

Main Showroom:
West Bloomfield
3325 Orchard Lake Rd.
Keego Harbor, MI 48033
626-0031

Troy (In Long Lake Plaza)
1061 E. Long Lake Rd.
Troy, MI 48068
528-9050

Tues., Wed., Sat. 10:00-5:30. Thurs., Fri. 10:00-9:00. Sun. 12:00-5:00 Closed Monday.
Interior Design Service Available at Main Showroom Only.
Art & Lamp Gallery at Main Showroom Only.