

City recognizes beautification projects

By Casey Hans
staff writer

SIXTY-THREE businesses, community groups and individuals in Farmington were honored Oct. 16 for their exceptional building maintenance and special beautification projects.

It was the 18th annual Keep Farmington Beautiful Awards Presentation, held at the Farmington Masonic Temple; 46 of the 63 arrived in person to accept their awards.

Presentations were made by Farmington Beautification Chairwoman Carol Kurth and Farmington Mayor William Hartsock.

"For 30 years, we have been instrumental in helping the city fathers at that time and along the way," Kurth said of her city-appointed group. "Awards are given for year-round maintenance," including overall "condition of the buildings."

Judging for the annual event was done in July, when flowers were blooming at peak and much of the annual maintenance could be done, she added.

"There is a small difference between plaques and honorable mentions," she said. "I hope you will all feel honored to get something."

SPECIAL AWARDS were given to local funeral director Walter Sundquist, florist Wallace Seger of McFarland Florist and nursery owner Fred Steinkopf for the time and money they have spent in landscaping the corner at Grand River and Farmington Road in front of the Masonic Temple. Also honored with this group was the Warner Mansion Garden Guild.

Sundquist was also honored with a plaque for the 18th year for his beautification of the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home on Farmington Road. His recent induction into the Keep Michigan Beautiful Hall of Fame was also noted by the state group's vice president and Farmington Councilwoman Shirley Richardson.

The special Chairman Service Award and a mayoral proclamation was given to former Beautification Chairman Stewart Meredith because he is "always willing to help," Kurth said.

Drive is focusing on aging

The Michigan Office of Services to the Aging and the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan are joining with the National Network on Aging in launching the "Aging America - It's Everyones Future" information campaign.

Sponsored by the National Associations of Area Agencies on Aging and State Units on Aging in Washington, D.C., the campaign's primary purpose is to create greater visibility and knowledge of the Older Americans Act (OAA) network among allied service systems and professional groups - both public and private.

Through increased awareness and understanding of the role and functions of the federal Administration on Aging, state units and area agencies, other systems and networks can more effectively use the OAA system on behalf of older adults.

Simultaneously, the aging network can take advantage of opportunities to establish linkage with other professional groups who have an impact on policies, programs and services affecting the lives of older adults.

"Creating a greater awareness of the aging population and addressing activities to make public or private attitudes and policies more responsive to the needs and concerns of older people is of vital importance to the Office of Services to the Aging," said OAA Director Olivia Maynard.

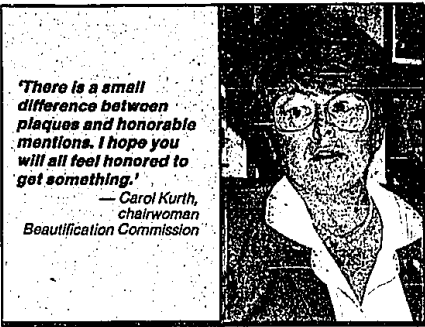
"Our specific goals in areas of health care, transportation, housing and other services are clearly outlined in the 1987-89 State Plan on Aging and, most recently, at the 1986 Governor's Conference on Aging in Flint. Gov. James Blanchard stressed the growing significance of the employment of older adults.

"The local Area Agencies on Aging are experiencing a tremendous growth in demand for services," said Mary Ablan, executive director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan.

"The Aging America campaign will enhance the visibility of local services and increase public awareness of both the special needs and talents of our older citizens."

The national kick-off of the Aging America campaign is scheduled to run October through December.

During these three months, the State Office of Services to the Aging and the 14 statewide Area Agencies on Aging will unite with the national network in the release of demographics on aging and information materials about the resources of the Older Americans Act network and the roles that the State Unit and Area Agencies play to service Michigan's aging population of 1.4 million adults.



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— Carol Kurth,
chairwoman
Beautification Commission

H.A. Smith Lumber Co. owner and Farmington resident Robert VanEvery received special recognition for his "untold amounts of money" and "great help to the city at large," according to Hartsock. Van Every donates lumber and makes the beautification plaques for the awards each year.

EIGHT GOOD Neighbor Awards were presented to several individuals, businesses and groups, which contributed to local beautification projects.

The Farmington Area Jaycees were recognized for their tree-lighting program around the Warner Museum on Grand River, Girl Scout Troop No. 1784 received an award for its landscaping work in the Shawassee Park and the cleaning of the Rouge River running through the park; the Korner Barber Shop and Pictures and More both were recognized for their window displays; and Kathy Versetrate was lauded for her promotion of the 1985 holiday lighting program in the downtown area.

Other good neighbors included the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Michigan/Deerborn Mission, the Art Alcove and the Farmington Holding Company.

In general awards, American Screw Products Co. was given an industrial plaque - their 16th award from the committee. Winning beautification awards for the 15th year were: Thayer-Rock Fu-

neral Home, Anderson Apartments, Kingslane Court Apartments, Kingslane Court Apartments, the Huron River Hunter and Fishing Club and Farmington City Hall, which all received plaques this year. Burger King restaurant took an honorable mention.

The awards luncheon is one of two events sponsored annually by the Farmington Beautification Committee, which also hosts an annual flower sale each spring to help buy annual flowers for city-owned property.

OTHER BUSINESSES receiving plaques included: BJ & D Associates, D & W Oil Co., Drakeshire Professional Center, Dr. Walter DeMattia, Executive Office Supply, Farmington No. 1784, Franklin Properties, Harp-Lowen Chiropractic Clinic, Lane Helbe Wetland Architects, Livingston-Oakland County Federal Credit Union, Michigan Bell Telephone, Plaza Pet Complex and Richard & Co.

Arbor Drugs on Farmington Road received recognition for the renovation and improvements made to the former Farmer Jack supermarket.

Other plaque winners included: K.R. Krueger Machine Tool Inc., Ole Tolt Shell Auto Care, Chatham Hills Apartments, Farmington Place Apartments, Parkview Apartments, Valleyview Condominiums, Wynset Condominiums and the Farmington Community Library.

Honorable mention certificates went to: Bloomfield Savings & Loan,



Former Farmington Beautification Committee chairman Stewart Meredith (left) receives the special Chairman Service Award from Mayor William Hartsock.

Dr. Brian Carroll, Duke Realty, Carl Gaiser Architect, Greene's Hamburgers, Professional Pavilion, Salem United Church of Christ, Joe Cee Sales, Mechanical Manufacturing, Amoco Oil Co., Ken's Shell Auto Care, Kensington Manor Apartments, River Glen Condominiums and the 47th District Courthouse.

Several other businesses received certificates for specific beautification projects. Duquet Jewelers and Village Clippers were lauded for sidewalk beautification. Others receiving awards included Clark Oil & Refining Corp., Farmington Shoe Repair, the Hair Sanctuary and Village Outlet.

Staff photos
by
Bob Sklar

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