

# Citizen of Year always wanted to be involved

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chaired, with Margaret Walker, the fund-raising drive that brought the gazebo to the gardens. From 1981-88, she chaired the garden committee.

"We feel that without the leadership, labor and love for beauty that was demonstrated by Mrs. Blakeney, we would not have the lovely gardens that are so enjoyed by thousands of visitors each summer," said Dick Carvell, Farmington Historical Commission museum committee chairman.

**MOST TREES** and shrubs in the gardens were planted in 1982 and 1983 as memorials to local residents. Eighteen gardens now mark the grounds, ranging from rose and perennial gardens to lily and wild-flower gardens.

Other garden features include a fountain, an antique iron fence and a footbridge. This year, Blakeney compiled the data that resulted in a brochure showing the layout of

the garden, shrubs and trees on the museum grounds.

"The gardens have been a very rewarding experience for me," Blakeney said. "I find gardening to be quite relaxing."

Blakeney began arranging flowers as a hobby 18 years ago. She was Farmington Garden Club president from 1978 to 1980.

In April, Blakeney was invited to participate in the Detroit Institute of Arts art and flowers festival, where she and other artists designed floral arrangements coordinated with an assigned art object.

Currently a Farmington-Farmington Hills Community Center board member, Blakeney is a former Volunteer of the Month at the center.

At Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, she is president of the Women's Torch Circle and chairs the memorials committee.

BLAKENEY and her husband have been married 50 years. They

moved from Detroit's Rosedale Park in 1970 and settled in Colony Park subdivision, near 13 Mile and Farmington Road, in Farmington Hills.

In 1969, they opened Blakeney's Ranch House on Grand River in Farmington Hills. They retired in 1976, selling the restaurant to their two sons, Bob, 46, and Dick, 39. They also have two daughters, Susan Decker, 48, of Plymouth and Patty Holt, 44, of Houghton Lake.

Avid travelers, the Blakeneys have circled the globe twice, visiting every continent and every state. They have presented slide shows at local travelogues.

Reflecting her selective taste in garden arrangements, their home is decorated with authentic art pieces collected from around the world.

The Blakeneys are members of the English Speaking Union, a travel club that promotes understanding between English-speaking people of the world.

## Co-worker: man talked about rape

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According to testimony, the attacker said he knew the victim's roommate, who had moved out of the apartment the previous week-end.

**THE PRELIMINARY** exam for Brawdy was originally set for Oct. 27, but was postponed because he was unable to hire his own attorney as planned.

Stuart Young of Birmingham will defend Brawdy in Oakland County Circuit Court, after being approved by the court last week.

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