

Florist offers budding advice to 2nd graders

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

Teachers can look forward to some budding careers after second graders at Gill Elementary School attended a lesson on flower arranging by a local florist Friday.

Mary Anna D'Ascenzo, owner of Thrifty Flowers of Farmington on Orchard Lake Road, created a Thanksgiving turkey flower arrangement in the 30-minute science class while spinning off facts about various plants and flowers.

"We think this is novel because the businesses are coming in and working with the schools," said Evelyn Kaplan, second grade teacher. "This way, the kids are exploring science and careers."

D'ASCENZO BEGAN the turkey plant arrangement with "greening up," or covering the oasis (a solid green foam used to retain water) with ferns and leaves.

"Thumbs up if you think it's beginning to look like a turkey," Kaplan said, as children awed at D'Ascenzo's creation.

D'Ascenzo shared tips, such as raking rose stems with a potato

peeler to rid thorny ends and prevent finger sores.

"I like watching flower arranging a lot," second grader Danielle Corbanti said. "But I don't know what I'm going to do when I grow up."

KAPLAN MET D'Ascenzo at her shop, where she would buy carnations to color up the classroom. D'Ascenzo offered to give Kaplan her unsaleable flowers for the children to learn the diverse flower groups and techniques at taking care of plants.

While D'Ascenzo clipped ends on the turkey arrangement, the children asked her questions regarding her career as a flower designer.

Hands were raised across the room. Questions ranged from, "How did you decide what to do?" and "Do you like your job?" to "How much money do you get paid?"

D'Ascenzo's father had a green thumb, she said. A loaded home of plants increased her interest in the field.

"It's not always easy to be the boss, though," D'Ascenzo said, telling how she once had to go to the shop at 3 a.m. and turn off a burglar alarm that went off by accident.

"Sometimes, it's not much fun to be the boss at all."



Mary D'Ascenzo, owner of Thrifty Flowers of Farmington, demonstrates flower arranging for Evelyn Kaplan's second graders at Gill Elementary School Friday. When the arrangement was

finished, it looked like a turkey — a centerpiece for Thanksgiving.

Farmington Hills council fills committee position

Newly elected councilman Larry Lichtman replaces ousted incumbent Philip Arnold as the Farmington Hills City Council's liaison to the ad hoc committee on toxic and hazardous materials.

But Arnold, who conceived the committee this summer in response to citizen concerns about toxicity in industrial-research-office zoning districts, will continue as an at-large

member.

The committee continues to work on a mission statement as well as goals and objectives. After one more meeting, it plans to present them to the city council for consideration.

"We want to be sure we're on the right track," said Fire Chief Rich Marinucci, committee member. Meanwhile, the city council, concerned about possible 4-4 tie votes,

agreed the remaining three months of Lichtman's unexpired term on the planning commission should be filled immediately and not left vacant until the mayor's regular yearly appointments in February.

Lichtman, who urged an immediate appointment, said the council should appoint someone who's likely to be reappointed in February "so we have some good continuity on the commission."

He said the orientation period alone takes a few months for a new planning commissioner. Councilman Ben Marks said the planning commission faces too many critical decisions to have a vacancy

linger.

The mayor recommends board and commission appointments and the council either confirms or rejects them. The city council will select a mayor for 1990 next Monday.

Smoke testing to identify sewer defects

Farmington sewers will be smoke tested during the next month. Testing is used to identify system defects. Prior to smoke testing, hand-bills will be distributed.

During the testing, which begins Wednesday, smoke may enter struc-

tures through unused drains or disconnected plumbing fixtures. Residents are advised to pour water down drains and fixtures to fill traps not regularly used.

If smoke does enter the building during testing, contact a member of

the survey team working on your street.

The smoke is nonstaining and is not dangerous to pets. The smoke will dissipate quickly if a window or door is opened and will leave no odor or residue.

The testing is being conducted by

the engineering firms of Black & Veatch and Orchard, Hiltz & McClinton Inc.

If you have any questions regarding the smoke testing program, contact the Farmington Department of Public Services at 473-7250.

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