

PTA lauds 6 students for their creative skills

Students from six PTA-affiliated schools were lauded Feb. 6 for their creative efforts in the Farmington Area PTA Council's annual Reflections Awards.

Students worked in the areas of music, fine arts, photography and literature, using the theme, "Where Does the Sky End?"

Winners will move on to compete at the state level with other PTA schools in Michigan.

Judges for the contest included music teacher Barb Temporelli; Kim Peterson and Barbara Osman, owners of the Art Alcove; employees of the Focal Point Studio of Photography; and teacher Mary Judge from Breckin Junior High.

The students were given their awards before the Farmington school board and family members, and were later greeted at a reception.

WINNERS INCLUDED:

• Literature awards: Courtney Blackford of Flanders and Karen Ludke of Gill won first place; Andrew Knepley of Gill and Greg Harrison of Longacre won second place; and Marya Link of Gill and Tracy Weiss of Eagle won third place.

• Music awards: Beth Jager of Gill and Juliet Petrus of Longacre won first place; Mark Ostach of Gill and Kari Smith of Kenbrook won second place; and Grant Weber of Gill and Vanessa Desousa of Longacre won third place.

• Photography awards: Stephen Michael Wayne of Highmeadow and Rachel Pawlak of Highmeadow won first place; Tauben Baessler of Flanders and Christopher Hartsock of Flanders won second place; and John W. Knight III of Gill, Emily Rachel Halberg of Eagle and Todd A. Herbaugh of Longacre won third place.

• Visual Arts awards: Lisa Grentzel of Gill and Kelley Lynn Oxley of Gill won first place; John Scalla of Eagle and Inge Baessler of Flanders won second place; and Tauben Baessler of Flanders and Adria

Vitar of Longacre won third place.

THE ANNUAL PTA Reflections contest is designed to encourage creative expression in the various areas, according to information from the PTA. Entries were judged on evidence of creative ability and expression of theme.

Farmington students competed in early elementary and late elementary categories.

Mayoral appointments prompt debate

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Round and round the table Fox went, demanding a reason from each council member why they did not feel her appointees to replace the four were qualified. With each round of inquiry, tempers flared.

"I feel very strongly that Mr. Horner and Mr. Bailey deserve to be reappointed," Lichtman said, as Fox pressed harder for a reason. "I gave you my reason. Beyond that, I plead the 5th Amendment."

Marks suggested expanding the nine-member parks and recreation commission to allow neighbors living near city parks to serve on the commission, as suggested by Fox.

call from Fox about her intention to replace him than her wanting to replace him, Horner said. "Madam Mayor, I am not privy to your thoughts. I cannot look behind your eyes and find the reasons why you have not advised me. Was it forgetfulness, lack of courtesy or some hidden political agenda which you do not wish to make public?"

"Whatever the reason, you have left me feeling used, like a worn-out tool which, having served its purpose, is blithely discarded," Horner said.

Fox said she wanted to replace one of the male commissioners with a woman because the parks and recreation commission "could benefit

from a little more equitable distribution of women."

After adding up the number of men and women on the city's board and commissions, councilwoman Nancy Bates dismissed the idea, adding, "The rationale doesn't seem to fly across the board."

Fox's attempted appointments to the planning commission prompted a rerun of events. Again tempers got heated. And again the reasons were the same.

The majority of council members simply did not want to replace Joynt and Arnold. One-third of the nine-member planning commission is relatively inexperienced, Grant said.

Pro Tem Aldo Vagnozzi said the purpose of mayoral appointments is to change -- and there's nothing wrong with that. "The biggest concern is how we develop the rest of the community."

Councilman Ben Marks said appointees could have been saved the embarrassment of negative votes if Fox had followed former mayors lead and polled council members beforehand to see which appointments would fly. "There was a little more class to it."

In her tenure to council, Fox asked council members to call her if they had "objections for strong public interest reasons" to any of her appointees.

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