

# Earth Week 1990

## Trees underscore plans for Hills' greening

By Amy Rauch  
staff writer

Farmington Hills commemorated Earth Week Monday by planting trees around the city and promising to continue beautification efforts.

"We have just come off a week dedicated to Earth Day," Mayor Jean Fox said Monday at Heritage Park. "Many people throughout the country have put their hearts and souls into this."

About 50 people gathered in Heritage Park Monday evening to witness the planting of memorial and Earth Day trees.

Fox said the planting was a step toward greater environmental awareness in the city. Trees that once would have been cut down because of construction are now being saved.

She said they city's efforts have been "able to save locusts when they would have been bulldozed, to save walnut trees when 11 Mile was paved to Farmington Road..." she said.

"In the last few years, when you hear of people going to cut down a tree, you have people ready to sit in front of the bulldozer and say 'No, no, no,'" she said.

Three memorial trees were donated by businesses and families throughout the city. In observance of Earth Day, Nissan Research and Development Inc. donated six trees, and a Farmington Hills family donated four more.

One of the trees was donated by the North Farmington Garden Club in memory of Toni Kramer, a former member who died in 1988.

"Toni had a saying on the refrigerator, 'To live in the hearts of others is not to die,'" said her husband, William Kramer. "She would have ap-

preciated it. She really, really would."

ON MONDAY morning, the city planted the first tree in an overall plan to beautify the intersection of Nine Mile and Middlebelt.

"We took advantage of Earth Week to kick this whole thing off," said Steve Brock, assistant to the city manager. "You have to plant a seed in areas like this. It won't happen on its own."

A crab apple tree was planted in front of Hi-Tech Transmissions at the intersection. The city is working to beautify the area in cooperation with local business and property owners. They will chip in about 25 percent of the \$31,000 that will be spent to beautify the intersection.

"I've owned this land since 1980. It's been a nasty section of town," said Jim Schotten, service manager at Hi-Tech Transmissions. "I've always been one to beautify a corner. I'm a land nut anyway."

Ray's Landscaping of Walled Lake will landscape and beautify the Nine Mile-Middlebelt intersection at a cost of \$31,153, the lowest of five bids, following city council action Monday night.

Property and business owners will pay 25 percent of the cost of landscape materials planted on their parcels.

The plantings — trees, evergreens, shrubs — are in conjunction with recent traffic safety improvements at the intersection.

The city plans to finish landscaping the corner by the end of May.

"It's really going to help revitalize the area," said Marie Donlin, staff planner for the Farmington Hills Department of Planning and Community Development.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington Hills Mayor Jean Fox (right) plants a tree in front of Hi-Tech Transmissions at Nine Mile and Middlebelt Monday. At left is Jim Schotten of Hi-Tech.

Diane Singer helps her daughter, Sara, 9, draw "Save the Waves" onto a T-shirt in commemoration of their participation in Earth Day 1990 during the community center program. The Singers are from Farmington Hills.



SHARON LeMUEX/staff photographer

## Naturalist urges action

Continued from Page 1

are an environmental hazard and she will only use cloth diapers for her 15-month-old son, Aaron.

"At first, I wasn't that concerned about it," said Lisa Strouberg, Darcy's 12-year-old daughter. "But the more I learned, the more concerned I became and it has become very important to me."

Also attending the talk was Lisa's dad, Sam, and her brother, David, 9. "I don't want to live in an area that's dirty," said Lisa, a seventh grader at Dunckel Middle School. "Our school is even saving all the pop cans for recycling."

DEREK'S TALK, in and outside the community center, was designed to make residents aware of wasteful habits such as bathroom water waste with extended showers or unnecessary toilet flushing.

Other concerns were reusing items such as disposable liners that should be refilled instead of thrown away. And plastic film containers should be used as fishing lures or storage containers for sewing materials.

Derek spoke strongly against the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Instead of using pesticides to scare off pesky insects from your garden, surround your home with wild birds who prey on insects.

The Blue Bird is "a great insect eater," Derek said.

And a Blue Bird house is easy to make; the only difference is the size of the hole, an inch and a half. Or if you aren't much of a carpenter, buy a bird house at Frank's Nursery and hang it on a steel pole to keep squirrels away.

Find a birdhouse with an extended hole to keep raccoons from reaching in and attacking the birds.

For an easy to make bird feeder, use an empty windshield washing fluid container. Fill the jug with sunflower seeds and cut a hole in the bottom a little bit bigger than the size of a sunflower allowing the seeds to leak out.

DEREK CREDITED Kensington Metro Park and its Blue Bird Program, which maintains 26 pairs of Blue Birds on park grounds.

The state Department of Natural

Resources has a listing on birdhouses and nesting projects available free of charge at the Pontiac DNR office, said Beverly Cornell, a DNR volunteer from Farmington Hills.

The program at the community center included Earth Day T-shirt making. The participants brought plain white T-shirts. Stencils were supplied with logos such as: Save the Earth, with a globe; Save the Waves, with waves and dolphins; and Earth Day 1990, with a globe.

Carol Scrimger, assistant director of Friends of the Rouge, spoke during the talk to encourage listeners to participate in Rouge Rescue 1990 on Saturday, June 2. To participate in the local rescue project, call Jean Barrett at 473-9520.

"People really made a mess of things," Derek said. "But it's everybody's fault. Unfortunately, the government hasn't done anything about it. So we have to make them listen."

Derek urged listeners to write letters to government representatives to promote legislation to be passed for stronger environmental laws.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Mayor Shirley Richardson, Fred Steinkopf Jr., City of Farmington Beautification Committee chair Jacqueline Steuer and tree planting project chair Carol Kurth are shown with a Norway maple planted in Shilwassee Park. Steinkopf Nursery donated two trees to be planted in the city park.

## Farmington marks Arbor Day by planting 2 trees in park

The City of Farmington celebrated the 118th birthday of National Arbor Day by planting two new trees in Shilwassee Park April 18.

The trees were donated by the City of Farmington Beautification Committee and by Steinkopf Nursery, Farmington Hills.

The new Norway Maple and Linden tree will add shade and comfort to the park. The planting was part of the current tree-planting program in the city and helped salute Earth Day on April 22.

Representing the Beautification Committee was chair Jacqueline Steuer. Fred Steinkopf Jr. repre-

sented Steinkopf Nursery. Mayor Shirley Richardson accepted the two new trees for the City of Farmington.

The Beautification Committee urges residents and businesses to follow suit by planting new trees where possible and to care for those already on sites.