

Promoting understanding



JOHN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Smiling artists: Hillside Elementary students proudly display their art work. They are (front row, from left) Emily Schulkins, Blake Swerden, John Notarianni, Christina Madany and Stephanie Karros; (middle row, from left) Becky Hurvitz, Brian Baran and Harry Leipsitz; (back row, from left) Tom Jakacki and Danny Zeldes.

Understanding from page 1A

ington Hills," Warner said. Burke came up with the idea for the exhibit. The gallery owner sees the partnership between the two schools as a way to foster understanding. "The children are our future," Burke said. "We wanted to do something to bring the two communities together. If this area is going to be a success, you can't look at the city of Detroit as a liability...

It has to be an asset." Burke's gallery was in Detroit for 10 years before moving to Farmington Hills. Burke credited Hillside principal Richard Ruiters and Fairbanks art teacher Leslie Wolf and principal Fale Carter for getting the idea off the ground. Others have chipped in, too. Budco Company of Detroit provided a grant to print invitations and a gallery booklet. The

booklet includes letters from Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer and Farmington Hills Mayor Larry Lichtman. Students from both schools will serve as guides for the exhibit opening. A joint choral performance is also planned. Organizers see the partnership as a model for future endeavors, Burke said. Already, there's talk of including Hillside within an existing partnership between Fairbanks and a school in Minsk, Belorussia.

Hillside students began working on the mixed media project in the spring. Such exercises tap student's skills in language arts, fine arts and social studies, Warner said. "We didn't want this as an add-on for the kids," Warner said. "We wanted something that would be part of the curriculum."

DDA considers a \$12,000 'softening' of Temple's plaza

BY TOM BARR

STAFF WRITER

Farmington's Downtown Development Authority is considering a further renovation of the Masonic Temple "plaza" at the city's main corner.

The plaza includes a large planter, some benches and a controversial green sign announcing the Masonic Temple at Farmington Road and Grand River Avenue. The Masonic Temple, housed in a historic brick building, sits back from the planter.

The DDA, which so far has spent about \$20,000 for renovations to the planter, heard a plan to "soften" its look at its monthly meeting Monday morning. Cost could be up to \$12,000.

"The renovation was finished this past spring," said Ron Oglesby, an attorney and DDA board member. "and we promised we would revisit this in the fall."

The latest plan, presented Monday by John Grisalam of Grisalam/Metz Landscape Architects in Farmington Hills, calls for additional brick and concrete work, as well as plantings of shade and flowering trees, annuals and perennials, an evergreen hedge, a sodded lawn, and an adjustment to the existing irrigation system.

The wooden sign, which caused an uproar when it was unveiled last spring, would be altered slightly.

"We've tried to give it a feeling of warmth... a feeling that you're home once you see it," said Grisalam.

Not all DDA board members endorsed the Grisalam plan. They brought up concerns about cost and color.

"I want to see color sketches," said Michelle Jakacki of the Focal Point photo studio. She suggested

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Michelle Jakacki
Focal Point photo studio

that Lawrence Technological University students do the drawings, and that the DDA contribute to the school's scholarship fund. "This (the latest plan) looks like it was just thrown together, mishmash."

Oglesby mentioned cost and DDA priorities. "What about the eastern end of the (DDA) district? Where nothing's been done, and those people paying taxes for seven years?" he asked.

The plaza land, owned by the Masonic Order, is leased to the city of Farmington for 99 years. The lease requires that a sign announcing the Masonic Temple be on the site.

A plan to erect a clock tower at the corner caused a public outcry in early 1993. So bitter was the opposition that the plan was dropped.

The sign, which includes an outsize frog and grasshopper, was very unpopular with residents when it went up. These days, that part of the sign is usually covered with a poster announcing Masonic Temple events.

Input from the public will be sought at a special meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26, at the Farmington City Hall on Grand River.

CLARIFICATION

Jacquelyn Watts' name was omitted from a photo caption about the Farmington Community Center Dancers that appeared

in the Sept. 8 Community Life section of the Farmington Observer. Jacquelyn tied for the Most Promising Performer award.

Partnership program puts student artwork on display



Direct questions to Betty Wolford, School/Community Relations, at 489-3349.

Artists of all ages appreciate seeing their work displayed and admired. For most students, this means a spot on the family refrigerator. Thanks to the efforts of Farmington Schools' art consultants and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, students are enjoying a wider audience for their work.

Approximately 60 area businesses are participating in partnership called "Art in the Workplace." The partnership was launched in March 1992 to coincide with National Youth Art Month.

It was the brainchild of Harvey Goldstein, Farmington Schools' art coordinator, who enlisted the support of Jody Soronen, executive director, and Linda Lynch, then president of the Chamber of Commerce.

The school district provides frames and art consultants select, label and distribute student artwork to workplaces. Artwork is changed throughout the year, giving more students an opportunity to be showcased.

Soronen said, "This is a partnership that has been enthusiastically received by area businesses. I think many of our business people have been surprised and delighted by the quality of the students' work."

Goldstein added, "Students love this — to know their work is up and then to see it. We get lots of positive feedback from community members who have seen the work in such places as their dentist's or lawyer's office."

"Art in the Workplace" is one of several projects that highlight students' artistic talents. Special art displays at such places as Nissan World Headquarters and Crowley's Department Store attracted attention and earned income for kindergarten through 12th grade students. Botaford General Hospital, Farmington Training Center, Farmington Hills City Hall and Farmington's Board of Education provide settings for ongoing art displays.

In addition to local art displays, students' artwork is featured in print. Farmington Schools produced a school calendar this year in collaboration with the Farmington Area YMCA. Local businesses sponsored the calendar which features student artwork. Expressions, a district publication containing student creative writing and artwork, is distributed to area doctors' and dentists' offices to place in their waiting rooms.

Additionally, the Farmington Area Arts Commission sponsors a yearly High School Art Competition, giving students the chance to enter artwork for prizes and recognition. Winning entries are then displayed publicly, last year at the Art Above on Grand River.

Farmington students have been represented at the state level also. Their work has appeared in the Children's Art Show in Lansing, which is designed to show the scope and quality of elementary art education in Michigan.

The Michigan Art Education Association sponsors this and the Youth Arts Festival for high school students at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. The Governor's Traveling Art Show selects artwork from the Festival to exhibit around the state.

Shelly Ziska said USAir had been very supportive to families of those 127 passengers and five crew members killed in the crash Sept. 8, but added that that help could only do so much.

"There won't be any funerals," she said. "And they will never be identified bodies."

The flight recorder has been recovered and the tragedy is under investigation. The Boeing 777

went down in Alliquippa, Pa., near Pittsburgh at 7:15 p.m. There were no survivors.

Shelly's father, Joseph, is a 40-year resident of the Kendallwood subdivision in northwest Farmington Hills.

Shelly Ziska is survived by her father and step-mother, a brother, Mark David Ziska, his wife Marcy, and their children Mark David

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Crash from page 1A

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