

## Everything's just 'ducky' at Botsford



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Egging them on: Mother duck laid an egg — 11 of them, as a matter of fact — and they all hatched (when else?) on Mother's Day at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. "There's been a lot of excitement here at the hospital," said Bridget Gosine, Botsford's director of communications. "Our Child Care Center has been involved, and so have the medical people. I guess it's pretty unusual for a mother duck to have 11 ducklings." The mother duck (left) showed off some of her chicks. Dr. Vance Powell, Botsford's director of medical education, (above) fed the ducks some cracked corn and egg mash he bought from Joe's Feed Store nearby. The child care center's pool became the ducks' pond. Gosine said she hoped the ducks could remain on the hospital grounds, but "in a better setting with water." She said she'd enlist help from the state Department of Natural Resources.

## Hills' 'housekeeping' staff takes bow for job well done

In winter, they plow the snow and salt the icy streets. In summer, they mow the grass in public rights of way. They maintain the city's drain system and traffic controls. They plant flowers and trees.

They pick up the garbage and coordinate the recycling and hazardous waste disposal program. They patch the potholes, rebuild the roads, maintain the sidewalks and guardrails, and repair and replace city signs.

"They" are the workers in Farmington Hills' Division of Public Works. The city designated May 21-27 Public Works Week.

This week, the Farmington Hills City Council took action to

be sure that the city does not forget the 35 year-round city employees and the 18 seasonal workers who maintain the city for the health, safety and comfort of residents and visitors.

The Division of Public Works might better be known as the city's housekeeping department. Along 67 miles of major streets and 235 miles of local streets, DPW patches pavement, grades roads, removes litter, maintains signs and removes snow and ice. Workers also mow grass, cut weeds and plant flowers and trees.

"Our goal is to do our job so effectively that citizens forget we're here," said Dan Ronney, superintendent of public works. "We feel most successful when citizens

don't have to ask about street cleaning and pothole repair, garbage pickup, snow removal, grass cutting, tree trimming or any of the other housekeeping tasks that we do in the city."

Farmington Hills division of Public Works is responsible for all street maintenance, vehicle/equipment repairs, daily supervision of the refuse/recycling program, maintenance of the city's storm drain system and traffic controls. Workers are responsible for keeping all city vehicles on the road, including those from the police and fire departments.

The work of the DPW has both long-term and short-term implications. "We concentrate on infrastructure maintenance," Ron-

ney said. "However, we also work on community events, subdivision cleanup programs and roadside beautification. We believe our efforts enhance the potential

for future economic and community development in this city."

National Public Works Week, a program of the American Public Works Association, recognizes the

contributions which public works officials make every day to the health, safety, comfort and quality of life of citizens in communities throughout the country.

## New chief named for Hillside

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Jan Colliton's career has reached new highs by going to the hill, namely Hillside Elementary.

The Highmeadow Common Campus principal for seven years will become the headmaster at Hillside Elementary. She replaces Richard Rutter, who is retiring after 32 years in June.

A search for a new Highmeadow principal will likely begin soon.

Also, the district has announced the hiring of Rochester Hills Hugger Elementary principal Eugene Seaborn as new East Middle School principal. He replaces Bill Martin, who is retiring in August after 33 years in the district.

Colliton goes to Hillside after a highly successful tenure at the district's model schools-of-choice program.

Highmeadow Common Campus was named a National Exemplary School last year and its students consistently perform well on Michigan Education Assessment Program tests.

Highmeadow Common Campus was also one of only two Farmington Hills schools to receive state summary accreditation. Hillside Elementary is the other.

"I'm lucky, huh?" Colliton said. "I've been at Highmeadow for seven years now, and it has been a real challenge and real pleasurable, and I'm proud of our accomplishments."

"But I also like new challenges."

Hillside should provide a few.

For one, the school is a neighborhood one opposed to drawing students from districtwide. Unlike Highmeadow, Hillside also



Jan Colliton

has a kindergarten.

Hillside — like Highmeadow — has experienced considerable success since it was opened in 1990. It's also been a source of discontent among some parents, who have questioned the curriculum and performance on standardized tests.

Earlier this year, part of the Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills was compromised after a Hillside teacher inadvertently provided students questions prior to the exam.

Hillside has a great staff and parental involvement, which should make the adjustment easier, Colliton said. She added that she's not been sent on a mission by Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

"My goal is to work with the staff and to collectively have a vision," Colliton said. "And, that we work hard towards that vision."

Don't look for Hillside to become Highmeadow West, either. Colliton said her goal is to

■ 'My goal is to work with the staff and to collectively have a vision. And, that we work hard towards that vision.'

Jan Colliton  
new Hillside principal

make sure district curriculum is taught, high academic standards are maintained, staff develop professionally, and the community is brought together.

"That's my job," she said. "My job is not to make one school like another one."

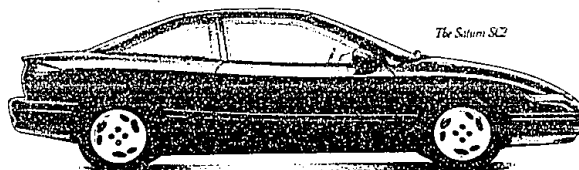
Hillside parents are pleased with Colliton's arrival.

"We're thrilled," said Joan Klineham, the school's PTA president. "Hillside and Highmeadow were both accredited by the state of Michigan this year. So she is qualified."

Her teaching methods ought to work well at Hillside. . . . I don't think we could have done better."

Another parent, Patti Alsapach, agreed. However, she is one of the disgruntled parents who will enroll her daughter, 9, elsewhere next fall.

"I'm not going to wait for her to make the changes," said Alsapach, whose daughter will go to St. Fabian in the fall.



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