

District PTA announces annual winners of Reflections contest

Farmington's Parent Teacher Association has announced its annual Reflections contest winners for the district.

The winners were honored prior to the Farmington Board of Education study session meeting at the Farmington Training Center March 6. PTA Council President Tom Glosop and PTA Reflections Chairperson Debbie Lukaski announced the winners.

Students in kindergarten through grade five can enter the contest. Categories include photography, music, literature and visual arts. Winners were selected in Primary (grades K-3) and In-

termediate (grades 3-5) divisions.

Winners in the primary photography division are: Jacqueline Orlando, Hillside, first place; Loren Ewola, Hillside, second; Chelsea Renzo, Gill, third; and Joseph Stefan, Hillside, honorable mention. Those honored in intermediate photography include: Stephanie Salwen, Hillside, first; John Kopicko, Longacre, second; Chris Campbell, Beechview, third; and Ryan Killing, Kenbrook, honorable mention.

Those honored in primary music are: Ryan Ried, Woodcreek, first; Marisa Kurek, Kenbrook, second; Amanda Gehrie, Hillside, third; and Preston Cook, Hillside, honorable mention. Intermediate music winners include: Sachiko Ito, Eagle, first; Kristen Scherer, Highmeadow, second; Ben Iwrey, Kenbrook, third; Kate Ginsberg, Forest, and J.P. Dursing, Gill; received honorable

mention.

Primary literature winners include: Jenna Dick, Hillside, first; Jennifer Marlow, Gill, second; Colleen Budd, Longacre, third; and Elizabeth Callan, Hillside, honorable mention. Intermediate winners are: Emily Jaffe, Forest, first; Alexa Follman, Kenbrook, second; Caroline Coleman, Highmeadow, third; and Joey Stack, Beechview, honorable mention.

Primary visual arts winners include: Jamie Olsen, Kenbrook, first; Allison Satersten, Kenbrook, second; Alexandra Brown, Hillside, third; and Erin Matthys, Longacre, honorable mention. Intermediate winners are: Jason Cummings, Hillside, first; Isako Yanagase, Kenbrook, second; Ariella Abele, Eagle, third; and Amrita Ghate, Longacre, honorable mention.

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Maxfield from page 1A

Maxfield earns \$121,000 annually. Along with a raise, the board has added another year on the contract to maintain a three-year pact in the past.

"It was — in a zillion different ways — a very successful year," Maxfield said.

"It's working as it's supposed to and the board believes we're on the right track."

The biggest task has been implementing the district's strategic plan Mission 2007.

The plan addresses goals and objectives on such things as curriculum, technology, and finances. Several aspects of the plan are already taking place, board members said.

"Bob has really made that happen," Trustee Cathy Webb said.

He's also maintained a high profile, though he lives outside of the district. Maxfield often attends public and school functions, board members said.

During less than pleasant times — such as the hate letter incident at North Farmington High — Maxfield made himself available to media. At a recent board meeting, Trustee Jack Inch commended Maxfield for his decisiveness in temporarily closing Warner Middle School after a fire there.

With Maxfield and staff's accomplishments, though, one board member said there is a worry of trying to do too much.

"We've expressed concerns that he not burn himself out or burn out his staff," Webb said.

"We need to do what we do well. We do want to keep those who are doing well and we don't want them to leave."

Maxfield concurred, especially when it comes to his staff.

"It's always a concern," he said.

"It's like trying to make a sprinter run a half mile, you might be able to pull it off once, but you'll burn them out."

Study from page 1A

which has 13 towers to date. But part of the committee's charge, concerning regulating cellular towers based on health effects was short-circuited by the new Federal Telecommunications Act, signed into law on Feb. 8.

"It's my view that that regulation denies local units of government from regulating based on environmental effects (of radio emissions)," said City Attorney John Donohue.

The FCC now has jurisdiction in the area of health effects, which had been a major focus of the committee's study. The FCC is due to come out with health standards for the towers later this year.

"Traditionally, health and safety have been within the power of municipalities and the state," said committee member Alan Vusko, an attorney.

Mayor Aldo Vagnorzi agreed that local governments should have a say on the health and safety issue.

"I think the council was courageous in voting for a moratorium," he said. "But the law ties our hands."

He said the council plans to forward the committee's report to the FCC.

Paul Blizman, a Hills planning commissioner and representative to the Michigan State Planning Association, said Farmington Hills is one of the first municipalities in the state to study the issue and make recommendations about cellular towers. Blizman said the city must be careful not to tie any ordinance to the health issue, lest it be overturned.

But Blizman and others at the study session agreed that zoning still remains a local prerogative

when it comes to the towers.

Committee member Dubra Rowe referred to a decision by the New York Court of Appeals, that state's highest court, that compensated for losses in property value due to "perceived health risks."

"There is the potential there to regulate this," she said.

Rick Sunkin, an attorney who represents Ameritech, said not only was the scientific evidence conclusive concerning the safety of cellular technology, but raising questions about it would hurt property values.

"As a former real estate sales person, I found that the quickest way to lower property values was to bring in the fear of the unknown," he said, referring to health effects.

There was debate as well among committee members and experts representing the cellular industry about the actual health effects of cellular towers.

John M. Osepchuk, a consultant from Concord, Mass., who has worked with microwave technology since 1950, said that research has not shown a negative cumulative effect from exposure to cellular towers.

Abe Liboff, a professor of physics at Oakland University and member of the committee, argued that not only were the standards still in question, but how those standards are maintained is a question.

The committee's report will be considered by the planning commission at a public hearing to determine what zoning restrictions should be placed on cellular tower construction. The current moratorium limits construction in residential areas, but does not limit it in commercial areas.

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