



Sign of good effort: Wooddale Elementary School parent Noriko Usaba, three of her daughters, and Sue Wolf, chair of the school PTA's building and grounds committee, were among those who participated.

School PTA, pupils, combine efforts during fall cleanup

The recent Wooddale Elementary School PTA Fall Cleanup was dubbed a success by those connected with the week-long October project.

Volunteers, including Wooddale students and their families, helped brighten up the Farmington district school's grounds with various beautification efforts.

Those included planting bulbs and flowers, trimming plants, spreading wood chips, collecting litter and gathering branches and logs.

Workers uncovered some strange objects while cleaning up the grounds, said Wooddale parent and spokeswoman Sharon McGladery, who organized the project. Those included a hockey stick,

metal pipe, bicycle parts and straw bales.

Helping to get rid of heavy logs and branches was Michael Lenting, maintenance supervisor for Farmington Public Schools.

Pizza and refreshments, courtesy of Papa John's, the Farmington-14 Mile Domino's Pizza and the Farmington-14 Mile Kroger's were donated to the cause.

Other contributing merchants were Jean's True Value Hardware store on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills, Steinkopf Nursery on Farmington Road in Farmington Hills and English Garden in West Bloomfield.



Glad to help: Families came out for Wooddale's recent fall cleanup, including fifth grader Bella Shah (left) and her mom, Indira Shah.

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Drug-free schools among issues of Youth Summit

The second Farmington/Farmington Hills Youth Summit is scheduled for 8:30-10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at Farmington Training Center.

Students will continue dialogues begun at the first summit, in October, about issues such as promoting zero tolerance attitudes about safe and drug-free schools and community prevention initiatives.

On hand to discuss those issues with students will be educational, law enforcement and judiciary representatives. In October, students heard presentations from 47th District Judge

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Fred Harris and local police about legal consequences and juvenile crime.

The Youth Summit is one of the major goals of the community-wide Call to Action coalition, which meets three-to-four times annually to plan and celebrate successes, join national coalition movements and model successful structures and communicate periodic updates to the community. The next community-wide coalition is tentatively set for Jan. 27, 1999.

School board recognizes several for 'excellence'

BY TIM SMITH
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Tuesday night's Farmington Board of Education meeting began what officials hope will become a new agenda tradition — recognizing "evidence of excellence."

"What you're going to see tonight is what we do," said Superintendent Bob Maxfield, introducing the segment.

Highmeadow Common Campus Principal Barbara Reams was first up, touted for her receiving of the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals' Association's Leadership Award for Region 7, which includes 26 Oakland County districts. She was introduced by Katy Hill, former Highmeadow principal and currently principal at William Grace Elementary School.

Reams, who took over Highmeadow in 1995, had a large cheering contingent from her school at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center. Among them were fourth grade teachers Sara Benn and Robin Prinn, both honored by the board for national board certification.

The Harrison and Farmington high school marching bands were honored as well, with respective directors Mark Phillips and Norm Logan saying a few words to the board and audience about the dedicated efforts of the students. Both bands again had excellent seasons.

"Marching band is a paradigm of what effective education is all about," Maxfield noted.

North Farmington High School history teacher Dave Finney, a 30-year veteran, was also touted for his participation in a television documentary about the Civil War's bloody Battle of Antietam.

Finney showed the board and audience a short video clip "trailer" from the documentary.

In the clip, Finney was seen and heard saying, about Antietam, "That's the bloodiest piece of land in the Western Hemisphere."

Nutcracker debuts at Mercy

The Michigan Classic Ballet Company newly located in Bloomfield Hills will be performing "The Nutcracker" at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Mercy Auditorium in Farmington Hills. Call 334-6964.



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