National Public Works Week celebrates DPW

BY PAUL R. PACE STAFF WRITER ppace@oe.homecomm.net

building nuclear rockets.

Off the bat he was hired as a heavy equipment operator, manning road graders and street

sweepers.

Edwards said looking back, he never imagined he would be in

this business.

"I figured I would be behind a deak pushing a pencil," he said. Would be change anything? Not at all, he quickly answered. 'I don't regret at all the decision I made.

Back in the '70a, the city had more dirt than paved roads, he pointed out.

Despite doing the job for nearly 30 years, Edwards admitted still hasn't discovered a way to outsmart Michigan's often extreme weather conditions.

"You have to have the proper equipment," he said. "You get in and out of trucks, go from hot to cold, you get sick a lot. I still haven't got it right. You just learn to bear with (the elements).

Edwards, who is married to Louise and has two adult sons, said he likes his job because of the satisfaction he gets from it.

"I feel good about what I did, he said of a job well done. 'Knowing I did a good job, at the end of the day I feel pretty good, you get good with Mother Nature's Uncertainty is all part of the

ment.

Dealing with Mother Nature's uncertainty is all part of the work as well. Despite helping keep the city's rendways clear when snow or ice hits the streets, Edwards said the job of clearing reads is a little different every time heads out, and, he shared, there's a fine art to spreading the salt.

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"When I first storted here there were three guys here with lots of experience," the crew leader said. "They showed me



On the Job: Dave Edwards is a Farmington Hills DPW

the way."
Learning on the job was simply part of the job, he said.
The DPW back then was just an empty field with an old house on it. Today, a huge warchouse houses dozons of specialty machines from graders to backhoos to trucks that suck out conjected sewer drains.
Edwards said he also runs the community work pragram with

community work program with the police department where people pick up trash as their community service requirement.

"We do about 18 Saturdays a year," he said of that job. He's been coordinating it for 10 years and said he's never really had a problem with anyone.

Despite the fact he's nearing retirement age, Edwards doesn't John to rush into it. He collects baseballs with Hall of Famers' signatures and Hockey cards and enjoys visiting trade shows.

And, he's quick to point out that the department gets far more compliments than complaints from residents.

Community fills empty bowls at FHS event

By SUE BUCK
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More money was raised for the
May 8 Empty Bowls project this
year in Farmington with the
additional participation by Highmeadow Elementary students.

"We made at least \$2,000,
said organizer Julie Devine. Last
year \$1,200 was raised.

Assisting Devine were Farmington art teachers Gail Piepenburg, Sarah Rozdilski and Nina
Weis. Empty Bowls, which begon
sa an international project to
fight hunger, has become an
annual event.

Farmington High School art
students served a symbolic, simple meal of soup and bread to
guests in the school cafeteria
located at 32000 Shiawassee.

"I've been coming here two
years, said Annabelle Gable, a
Farmington resident, 'It's a wonderful activity. It's nice to be a
part of it."

Guests chose a ceramic bow
hundmade by a student, to keep
ns a reminder that there are
always empty bowls in the
world.

Many parents bought the
bowls their children made. 'Lace
Juwan's sister, denal, mother,
Juwan's sister, denal, mother,
Angela, and father, John, also

ceramic bowl, handmade by a student, to keep as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world.

attended the event.

"I enjoy helping out in the community." Angela said.

FIS students assisted the younger children April 17 and 18 with making clay bowls used for the event. FHS students also used their "SMART" sessions during the school day to make bowls.

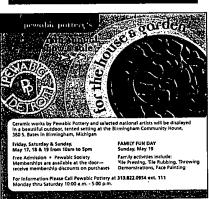
Proceeds will be used to restock the food pantries of the Farmington/ Farmington Hills Neighborhood House and the Farmington Salvation Army Community Center.

The evening also featured a musical performance, as well as the year-end FHS Art Exhibit and juried competition.

Rob Easterday, a Farmington High School senior and president of the art club, called Empty Bowls "unbelievable."

"It helps those who are less fortunate. Easterday said. "It helps the community get involved."

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