

Schools honored for beautifying their grounds

FARMINGTON—Three elementary schools in Farmington have received awards from the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission for the improvement they have made on their school sites.

Middlebelt Elementary School won first place and Forest Elementary won second place. Both schools are in the Farmington School district. Edgewood Elementary in Farmington Hills, in the Claremont School District, won third.

For the past three years, the Beautification Commission has given awards to elementary schools which "are doing an outstanding job of improving their school sites and making the students more aware of their environment and concerned about conservation."

Middlebelt implemented the first phase of the conservation site development plan prepared last year by an official from the Oakland County Soil Commission.

EVERY STUDENT was scheduled to participate. The school hoped to increase awareness of environmental beautification by active involvement. Their third goal was the maintenance and renovation of already existing facilities and plantings.

Completion of the conservation site development plan included the planting of 300 feet of white pine along the west edge of the playground.

The PTA purchased the 30 pieces and the trees were planted in October.

They also purchased 300 tall bulbs, one for every student, and plantings were done in plots allotted to each class.

Middlebelt also planted 15 trees and bushes which were donated to the school. The shrubs had been part of a flower and garden exhibit at Cobo Hall.

An anti-pollution club was reorganized

at Middlebelt this year and is presently in the middle of an aluminum collection drive. Money from last year's drive was used to purchase six trees.

The Middlebelt PTA sponsored two Saturday workdays when students and teachers worked to clean up the grounds, recondition playground equipment, picnic tables and flower beds.

One class built a model of the school and grounds. The model was displayed in the school lobby.

Other Middlebelt class projects included cleanup trips to the school grounds, cultivating giant tomato plants, watering newly planted trees, and environmental studies.

PROJECTS AT Forest Elementary, second place winner, included bulb planting, tree tapping and tree plantings.

Each class was involved in the maple tree tapping and later sampled the syrup at a pancake breakfast. More than 600 parents and students attended the breakfast.

Later that day, volunteers planted 275 trees which included evergreens and autumn olive trees.

A building beautification and environmental committee was formed from teachers of each grade level. Principal Walter Jablonki and the Forest PTO.

The school purchased aerial photos of the school site from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Student posters on environmental programs were displayed in the building.

Other Forest activities included painted four-square hopscotch games and school emblems on a Mackinac Island area, plans for painting map of U.S. on the same area, and building of a scale model of the school building and grounds.

Students also prepared a printed nature trail guide for teachers, removed graffiti from walls, and held a donation drive.

EDGWOOD SCHOOL was improved by planting 14 shrubs, 18 perennials and 300 tulips.

The Botanical Garden Club helped students tend cuttings and planted throughout the winter months. In May, the students, PTA and garden club planted the rooted cuttings and plants around the school.

At the same time, they planted 900 other annuals.

With the support of the Claremontville Board of Education, the school started a vandalism prevention incentive program. The board gave the school \$1 per student. Any repairs needed because of vandalism would be deducted from the \$500 total.

By the end of the school year, only \$15.80 had been deducted for glass breakage. The remaining money has been used to buy school equipment.

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Tom Sawyer look-alike

Jack Hay, 8, of 23875 Beacon, Farmington, was one of the finalists in the Tom Sawyer look-alike contest, held in conjunction with a kids' fishing contest Saturday on Newburgh Lake. More than a dozen boys entered, and some 683 boys and girls competed in the fishing contest. (Staff photo)

Home society elects officers

Four directors, three trustees and a board secretary were elected at a recent meeting of the Methodist Children's Home Society, Redford Township.

Chosen as directors were Mrs. Kathryn Briggs, a teacher consultant for the handicapped in the Farmington School district, and Mrs. Frances Tyler, a social worker in the Inlander school district.

Other directors are Dr. Thomas Clark, organist for the First United Methodist Church of Dearborn and Lawrence Dailey of Bloomfield Hills, who is in the construction business. Mrs. Joan Guregian of Redford Township is the new secretary. She is

currently serving as president of the League of Children's Friends, the volunteer women's group assisting the staffs of Children's Village and the Methodist Children's Home Society.

Re-elected to positions held last year are Richard McMann of Orchard Lake, president; and Dr. William Mercer, pastor of Nardin Park United Methodist Church, Farmington, first vice president.

Robert C. Juhake of Farmington is second vice president and Arnold R. Elmy of Livonia is treasurer.

Newly elected to the society's board of trustees are Mrs. Prada M. Conkright of Detroit, Edgar C. Thorne of Birmingham and Byron D. Walker of Farmington.



DR. STEVEN BATES

Optometrist made trustee of MOA

FARMINGTON—A local optometrist has been elected a trustee of the Michigan Optometric Association.

Dr. Steven S. Bates of Farmington was elected during the association's 79th annual convention in Bay City, Mich.

Dr. Bates, a graduate of the University of California School of Optometry and a former member of the faculty of the University of Alabama School of Optometry, is the executive director of the Optometric Institute and Clinic of Detroit, Inc.

Business award

FARMINGTON—Phil Kane has received the 1974 Knight Award of the Everbilt Company, division of National Union Electric Corporation.

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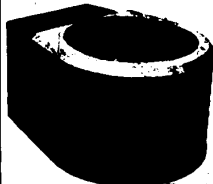
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