

# Farmington Hills honors best beautification efforts

Farmington Hills Beautification Commission chairman Lincoln Avery thinks the city is looking good.

As testament to that, the 20-member beautification commission awarded 169 businesses, churches, schools, subdivisions, shopping centers and individuals plaques and certificates for improving the appearance of their facilities or areas. Still others received letters of commendation recognizing attractive landscaping and plantings.

For the first time during the commission's three-year-old award program, the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce presented its own beautification award, this year to McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 12 Mile.

Avery urged the community to join beautification commissions in noticing spots around the community worth recognizing for their beautification efforts. "Let us know, help let us let more people participate in our program."

Award winners are chosen from a list compiled by commissioners. Each of the 12 categories has a captain responsible for keeping track of who's doing what to beautify their premises.

The awards ceremony is designed to "commend groups and individuals for accomplishments resulting in improving, enhancing and beautifying the city of Farmington Hills," according to the program's brochure.

**THE WINNERS**, specific categories and type of award include:

- Apartments: Fairmont Park, Foxpointe Townhouses, Indian Creek, Mury Lane, Summit and Independence. Green received plaques. Country Ridge, Gateway, Green Hill and Newport Creek received certificates.
- Condominiums: Farmington

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Village Co-Op, Randlewood Club, Randlewood Manor and Villas of Randlewood received plaques. Echo Valley Condominium Association, Hampshire House and Versailles Place received certificates.

- Businesses: Bill Cook Buick Inc., Botsford General Hospital, Burger King, Carousel Auto Wash, Casa Armando's, First Federal of Michigan (12 Mile), Louis & Vivian Eery Health Center, Mobile Oil Corp., Red Roof Inn, McCabe Funeral Home and Stewart Travel Service received plaques.

Albin Business Computers, American House, Beaver Distributors, Inc., First Federal of Michigan (Orchard Lake Road), Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit (Orchard Lake Road), Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit (Eight Mile), McDonald's restaurant (Orchard Lake), Mid-Twelve Shell, Old Orchard Shell Uncle Ed's Oil Shop, Walton's Ten & Orchard Shell Station, Wendy's (Orchard Lake) and Wildlife & Irrigation received certificates.

- Individuals: Heather McKinnon for First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, Leon Zolkower, Copper Woods subdivision, for donating wild flowers to Heritage Park, and Elizabeth Hutton, for Farmington Hills municipal building beautification — they received certificates.

- Organizations: Woodbrooke Hills Swim & Tennis Club received a

plaque. Farmington Area Jaycees and Hill & Dale Garden Club, for Farmington Area Advisory Council beautification, received certificates.

- Industrial buildings: Electromatic and Richard Tool & Die received plaques. ACO, Inc., Dyna-Power Corp., G.S.E., Home Planners, Stanley-Carter Co., Roger Zatkoff and La-2 Boy Showers Shoppers of Detroit received certificates.

- Offices: Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., Arboretum, Bond Street Office Park, Brookfield Office Park, Kay & Kay Tile National Headquarters, Metrobank Building, Morri, Shepley, Weinstein & Co. Spectrum Center, Tall Oaks and Woodbury Office Park received plaques. Amerisure, Chrysler Corp., Farmington Office Development Co., Fireman's Fund Building, J.W. Korth, Michigan National Bank Facilities Mgt., Medallion, Phillips, McDonnell Douglas, TriAtria, United Savings, Weber USA Inc. and Wood-Crest Center received certificates.

- Places of worship: Jehovah's Witnesses Farmington Congregation, Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament, Nardin Park United Methodist Church, St. Alexander's Roman Catholic Church and St. Fabian Catholic Church received plaques. Forest Park Baptist Church, Orchard United Methodist Church and Northwest Baptist Church of Farmington Hills received certificates.



photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

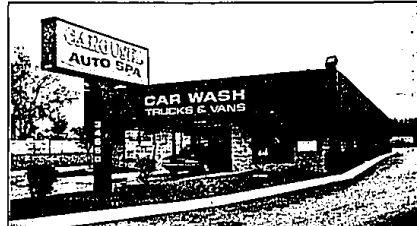
McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 12 Mile, is the recipient of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce's first beautification

award. The award was given in conjunction with the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission's annual awards ceremony.

- Schools: North Farmington Garden Club received a plaque for O.E. Dunckel Middle School. Oakland Community College and O.E. Dunckel received certificates.
- Public and municipal buildings: Farmington Hills Department of Special Services received a plaque for Farmington Hills city hall and fire headquarters beautification. The city hall and fire headquarters received certificates.

- Shopping centers: Mulwood Shopping Plaza and Mid-Eleven Shopping Center received plaques.

- Subdivision entrances: Colony Park, Pines of Farmington Hills and Stamen Acres received plaques. Holy Hill Farms, Old Homestead West, Wedgewood Commons and Woodbine received certificates.



The Farmington Hills Beautification Commission honored Carousell Auto Spa, 34650 Eight Mile, for landscaping improvements.

## Police help reunite puppy with owners

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Ernie is home safe and sound now — and slowly getting back on his feet. But her disappearance provided a few heartbreaking hours for a Farmington Hills couple, not to mention for Ernie.

On Sept. 24, the Benolts arrived home for lunch to discover their home had been burglarized. Their

5½-week-old puppy Ernie was part of the burglar's loot.

"With all due respect to the police, I knew we wouldn't see her again. But I couldn't believe it. They got the guy the same day. And we got Ernie back four hours later," said Rick Benolt.

Ernie is a barker. And Benolt figures that's probably why the burglar took her when he left their home with loot in hand. "Before this, she

would never shut up. I imagine he took her because she was barking."

Farmington Hills detective Chuck Hubbard returned the Benolts' dog. "When we arrested the suspect, the puppy dog was in his home," he said.

WHEN HUBBARD took Ernie back to the Benolts, "both of them were crying. It's very satisfying to make that kind of arrest and return something that personal to some-

one," Hubbard said.

The Benolts are just happy and thankful that Ernie is home. "We really appreciate the police's help."

The incident isn't necessarily over for Ernie. For the first few days back home, Ernie didn't bark, especially when someone came to the door. "She's still kind of scared to death," Benolt said.

## Jan Dolan apologizes

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"I've always had an answer — I've never hedged on answering questions."

Dolan said she continues to work on her campaign, as Election Day draws near. "I'm still working very hard, and not taking anything for granted," she said.

Much of her campaigning includes

speaking to groups and personal contacts, she said.

On Nov. 8, she will face Democrat John E. Dolan, a retired Bingham Farms businessman. The Dolans are not related.

The 69th District includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield Township and the township villages of Beverly Hills, Franklin and Bingham Farms.

## Concert mistress is helping minorities

By Amy Ross  
staff writer

Velda Kelly of Farmington Hills is the Southfield Symphony Orchestra's first black concert mistress.

"She's... the first one in the entire Detroit metro area," said orchestra personnel manager Chuck Marks. "She's an excellent violinist."

Kelly began her performing career largely in New England; her resume lists a host of symphony experience in Boston and nearby Cambridge.

A three-year temporary, fellowship program with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra brought her to this area. The DSO is the "best orchestra I've played in," she said.

The position was developed to bring more blacks into major symphony orchestras. It was through her contacts at the DSO that she auditioned and was accepted in Southfield's orchestra.

Kelly talks with admiration about the symphonies she has played with and is proud to have been awarded her current position. Her pride stems from not only making it as a member of a minority group, but because she made it after starting her career a little late.

SHE WAS 16 before she started to think of violin as a career. Kelly attributes her attitude change to a North Carolina high school music teacher who encouraged her, telling her she was good enough to be a professional.

Until then, Kelly had received just seven years of violin training in school. Those lessons were part of the music curriculum in a Long Island school system she attended before her family moved to North Carolina.

Her lack of early formal "after-school lessons" could have hindered her professionally, she admitted. "But I practiced on my own constantly. I was basically an over-achiever. I went all out for everything I did, and violin was part of that."

"I originally wanted to learn the flute." She chose the violin after



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Velda Kelly believes education is the key to getting more minorities represented among orchestra members.

## people

finding out she would have to put off flute lessons for one year. Her school offered students wind-instrument lessons in the fourth grade but would teach students to play string instruments a year earlier.

Anxious to begin any music lessons, she picked up a violin. "I was never good at waiting."

ONE OTHER thing Kelly isn't good at doing is accepting the current status of blacks within orchestras. She believes the audition process to become members isn't discriminatory, but that "the situation is a result of attitudes and problems with education."

As a member of the DSO, Kelly was one of just two blacks out of 100 members performing in the group, she said. In the Southfield organization, she is one of four minority members among 60 musicians.

Early school training and "getting blacks into the major universities, so they can get up to par with others" is a step in the right direction, she said. "The problem is that many blacks live in the inner cities, and music education is horrible there. I was fortunate to have such a good program in my own school."

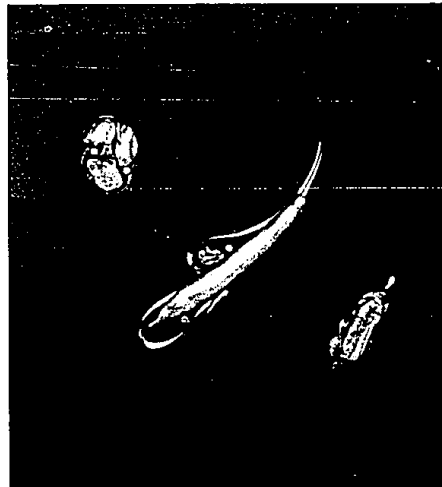
For her part, Kelly makes it a point to take as many black students as possible for private lessons. She also teaches violin at Detroit's Institute of Music and Dance, where she comes into contact with more promising minority musicians.

"I don't know if things will change for us, but I can always hope."

As concert mistress she tunes the orchestra in practice and before concerts, is responsible for one of two violin sections and puts "the bowing into the music" (making sure every string player is synchronized so that "things sound more cohesive.") "It helps the phrasing of the music."

And she'll sit in the first chair leading her section. After all, here is the most important job in the entire orchestra next to the conductor's.

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