

Spring art show



Patrons of the artist: Walt and Mary Jane Baker browse through the exhibit. Their granddaughter Julia Sutton is one of the exhibitors.

Mercy spring art event showcases talent

BY SUE BUCK
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A variety of mediums highlighted the spring art show held last week at Mercy High School at 11 Mile and Middlebelt.

The work of every grade level was featured. Students submitted drawings, ceramics, sketchwork, sculptures and jewelry. Each art class gives students a chance to work in four or five mediums, said

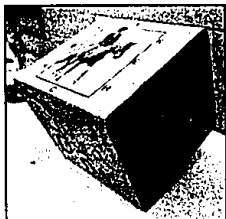
Amanda Martin, a sophomore. "It's the cream of the crop of whatever they created that year," said Sister Marie Henderson, chairperson of the high school art department. She's been at the school since 1978.

Four seniors - Andrea Baker, Jennifer Stojinski, Angela Stork and Julia Sutton - who had four semesters of art or more presented one woman shows which captured the work they'd done during

their years at Mercy.

"We've had the shows for 40 years," Henderson said. "It's nice because you get a chance to see what students do at different levels."

"It's always very rewarding to see what the students accomplished," said Susan Smith, an art teacher. "A lot of the times the work is in portfolio until this point. At the end when they bring it all out it is very exciting."



Boxed in: Leah Yurasek created a decorative cube.



Fired up: Kristin Giles worked with ceramics.

Majority rules on Alycekey paving project

BY ALICE ASHMORE
STAFF WRITER

In the end, it was majority rule that prompted the approval of the Alycekey and High Meadow road paving and drainage project in northeast Farmington Hills.

As of last week's public hearing on the matter, 52,308 percent of residents were in favor of the project. That number dwindled to just over 50 percent as Alycekey residents Judy Spillman and Steve Sutton removed their properties from the approval petition at Monday night's City Council meeting.

"I cherish my neighbors more than I do asphalt," Spillman said.

Sutton said his wife signed the petition with the understanding that it was for more information - not approval.

Alycekey resident Nadher Majdoh, who helped to circulate the petitions for the SAP, said he brings to friends and family about Farmington Hills, but the condition of his car undermines his words.

"The dusty road and the muddy car give the impression of a dirty city," Majdoh said.

He told council member Barry Brickner he stopped seeking signatures on the petition when a majority had been reached.

"We don't know how many people would have signed the petition," Brickner said.

Steve Thomas, who also lives on Alycekey, said, "I do not wish to change my vote."

"I was very much attracted to the country-in-the-city feel, but the things I don't like pertain to the road."

He cited car washing, noise and safety concerns as reasons for paving the road.

His wife, Christina Thomas, agreed. "The dust is incredible, and this is the time of year we like to keep the windows open. The rumbling is tremendous."

"It is a fact that this is a very busy road - too busy to be a dirt road."

The neighborhood is located north of 12 mile and just east of Orchard Lake Road.

The council approved the SAP (Special Assessment Project) by a 6-1 vote, with council member Barnett dissenting.

Council member Jon Grant said, "I am going to support the motion. SAPs are always very difficult, but the fact of the matter is that our country is founded on majority rules. I have a hard time deviating from that."

"This is difficult, especially

when the percentages are so close, but you have to draw the line someplace," said Council member Cheryl Oliverio.

She said she sympathized with property owners who would face a hardship when faced with the \$10,000 special assessment for the road.

The assessment would be made over a 10-year period.

Barnett said she fears the decision will divide the neighborhood.

"I am not going to support the motion. I also really appreciate those that removed their lots in an effort for peace."

She said this type of decision pits neighbor against neighbor. "If I were to see a number over 60 percent, then I know the neighborhood is soundly behind it."

Council member Jerry Ellis said, "If we required more than a majority, then we would let minority rule."

He said that once the majority had made a decision, it was his obligation to follow.

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates said, "We told the community what they needed to do (to get the road paved) and they did it."

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