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NEW CONDOMINIUMS—Called Parkway, Livonia's newest condominium project is located on Ann Arbor Trail overlooking Hines Parkway. Looking over the new community are (from left) William F. Allen, Judge James R. McCann, Livonia Mayor Edward H. McNamara, and Donald G. Van Evely. Allen and Van Evely are partners in Van Allen Builders Inc., Developer of Parkway Condominium.

The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Feed your trees: Shade the ornamentals. No other trees are the orphans among plant around the home is more neglected, and no other plant is more useful to our environment than shade trees. They take a beating from road heat, salt, sun, drought, bugs and diseases, lawn mowers and dogs. One way to help your tree survive is to feed it. Some people scatter plant food on the surface of the soil, some drill holes and pour it into them.

Area Gardeners 'View With Pride'

Area gardeners continue to be surprised by the results of their efforts. Tallest tomato plant we've heard of is a 9 1/2-foot Big Boy that has reached the eaves of the garage at the home of Robert Fennell, 8925 Hubbard, Livonia. Fennell started the plant from seed indoors this spring. He has a sunny doorwall that is ideal for getting the plants off to a good start indoors. The Fennells keep their bird feeder station going all summer and have hundreds of visitors every day. They include cardinals, robins, blue jays, cowbirds and two or three kinds of sparrows.

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Joanna Gagon of 33200 Cowan Rd., Westland planted some squash seeds late in May. When she returned from a recent camping trip, she found the biggest zucchini she had ever seen. It measured 15 1/2 inches in length with a circumference of 12 inches. Joanna is going to leave this one on the vine to see just how large it will grow. Squash is not one of her favorite vegetables, but she has many more normal-sized zucchinis on the vines for the family dinner table.

THERE'S A touch of Christmas in the garden of the Walters Eberts of 327 Farmer, Plymouth, where poinsettias are in bloom. The Eberts received the seeds in a Christmas card last year and planted them in a starter box in the basement. They were not too impressed with the seedlings that appeared in March. Mrs. Ebert says, "They looked like little red weeds." They moved them outdoors in April and "they didn't amount to much" until Ebert fertilized the tomato plants and spread a little of it near the poinsettias.

Now they have five or six of them in bloom. The tallest is about three feet. Asked if they intended to move them indoors for winter, Mrs. Ebert said, "They have rows of seeds on the stems. If they ripen before the frost, we'll just save them and start over again next spring."

Suburban Gardener

Annual Dahlia Show Coming This Weekend

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

The Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society is presenting its annual dahlia show on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9 and 10. Jim Neubacher, chairman of the show, has announced that in addition to a glorious exhibit of dahlias of all types there will be a display of flower arrangements showing various ways dahlias can be used in bouquet and artistic designs. Dahlias are semi-tropical plants which grow wild in Mexico—and their colors are as bright and gay as the Mexican fiesta. They grow from tubers. In our climate the tubers must be lifted out of the ground in the winter, stored in a frost-free place, and then replanted in the spring.

organic material should be worked into the soil. Bone meal should also be worked into the soil, and if the soil is heavy clay it is beneficial to add hydrated lime. Although most gardeners grow their dahlias from tubers which they have purchased or saved from the preceding year, these plants, especially the dwarf and semi-dwarf types, can also be grown from seed. Dahlia tubers are planted out doors in spring after danger of frost is past. When dividing old clumps remember that the new growth does not come from the tuber itself but from the base of the old stem. So it is essential to have an old stem section with each division. Some growers start the tubers indoors in early spring. Others wait and start them outdoors. At the time that the tubers of tall varieties are planted, a stake should also be

set in the ground. Staking will be essential later in the season. Gardeners who object to the appearance of a garden filled with bare stakes, set a small stake at first, later replacing it with a taller, sturdier stake. To produce the prize blooms that will be on exhibit at Twelve Mall, the growers disbudded their plants. That is, as the flower buds developed in the axils of the leaves along the stem, they were pinched off, so all the strength went into producing a really giant bloom at the tip of the stem. Dahlia flowers come in so many sizes and forms that there is a rather elaborate system of classification. First of all there are size categories. Large means blooms over eight inches in diameter. Medium is for flowers four inches to eight inches, and Miniature is for blooms under four inches.

Dahlias come in all shapes and sizes. There are dwarf types with plants a foot or two high which make splendid bedding plants. There are other kinds which grow eight feet tall—and there is every size in between. They all have handsome dark green leaves that have a rather leathery texture. The dwarfs, which begin blooming in early summer and continue until frost, can be massed for a beautiful display, or they can be used as part of a mixed flower bed. The taller varieties are August and September bloomers. These can be used in the background of an informal flower bed, but they make the most dramatic display when they are arranged in formal beds. A border devoted just to dahlias is a breath-taking spectacle in late summer. DAHLIAS GROW best in full sun, but they will tolerate some light shade. They are easy plants to grow, but require heavy feeding and lots of moisture. The soil should be well prepared before the dahlias are planted. A generous amount of compost or other

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