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Students recognized by Fair Lawn Property Maintenance Committee

BY TRACEY PUTRINO

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Fair Lawn – Winners of an essay and poster contest about the environment and what residents can do to keep Fair Lawn clean were recognized at the Jan. 26 council meeting.

The annual contest is hosted by the borough's Property Maintenance Advisory Committee, which among other tasks, works to promote a more aesthetic appearance in the community.

"All the kids all did a fabulous job," said George Bate, chairman of the committee. He added it was hard to select a winner.

Committee member Mark Spindel explained that the committee believes children as well as adults should be involved in its projects so it reached out to the borough schools for the contests.

The poster contest began eight years ago for all fourth-graders. He said hundreds of entries were received this year.

"We chose the top three," said Spindel.

The poster contest winners displayed their posters and shared what they mean.

Faith Erasmo, the first-place winner from Westmoreland Elementary School, displayed her poster with a house featuring a "well-maintained lawn" including four containers for the four different kinds of waste. Attached to her poster was the borough's garbage and recycling handbook.

"If we all follow the handbook, we can help keep our home clean and beautiful and therefore help keep Fair Lawn clean and beautiful," she said.

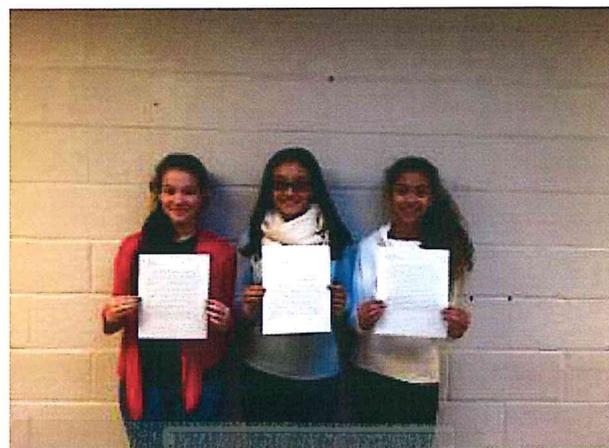
She reminded residents that the handbook is available on the borough's website.

Eve Kohen, the second-place winner from H.B. Milnes Elementary School, drew a building with lampposts,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARK SPINDEL

Fourth-graders Faith Erasmo, Eve Kohen and Rania Abdallah, who are joined by art teacher, Alison Bourhill-Tumser, were the winners of the poster contest hosted by the Fair Lawn Property Maintenance Committee.



Seventh-graders Lillian Gofman, Ariana Contes and Saribel Barrientos were the winners of the essay contest hosted by the Fair Lawn Property Maintenance Committee.

baskets with flowers and trees to show how nice a property could look with those added.

Fourth-graders Faith Erasmo, Eve Kohen and Rania Abdallah, who are joined by art teacher, Alison Bourhill-Tumser, were the winners of the poster contest hosted by the Fair Lawn Property Maintenance Committee.

The poster by Rania Abdallah, the third-place winner from Westmoreland Elementary School, says "Keep Calm and Clean Your Lawn" with a house and animals.

"Let's put some effort and make Fair Lawn beautiful," she said.

The essay contest was available for seventh-graders at both middle schools and St. Anne School. This was the first year for the essay contest, which asked students what environmental issue most concerns our youth of today? The three winners each read their essay.

The essay by Lillian Gofman, the first-place winner from Thomas Jefferson Middle School, focused on waste disposal.

"People all over the world produce too much waste," she said.

Ariana Contes, the second-place winner from Memorial Middle School, wrote about water pollution.

"Correcting this problem is everyone's responsibility," she said.

Saribel Barrientos, the third-place winner from Thomas Jefferson Middle School, focused on the drinking water around the world and ways residents can help the water supply.

"It is up to our generation to be diligent and make a difference," she said.

Each of the winners received a prize that was provided by Knights of Pythias Benjamin N. Cardozo Lodge. Douglas Charipper from the Knights of Pythias presented the checks to them.

"A special thanks to the Knights of Pythias for their generous monetary donation," said Spindel.

Members of the governing body congratulated the winners and thanked the committee for hosting the contest.

Deputy Mayor Daniel Dunay said the committee is "so committed to making sure Fair Lawn is beautiful" and trying to instill that in children.

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