

Scout gives local school a facelift

C & G NEWSPAPERS

By Thomas Franz✉

🕒 Posted September 7, 2016



Chippewa Valley High School senior Justin Chorazyczewski stands in front of the newly landscaped front entrance at Fox Elementary School. (Photo by Thomas Franz)

MACOMB TOWNSHIP/CLINTON TOWNSHIP — An Eagle Scout hopeful has given Fox Elementary School in Macomb Township a much-needed facelift just prior to the start of the school year.

Justin Chorazyczewski, a senior at Chippewa Valley High School, frequently rides his bike past his old elementary school, and thought that fixing up the front entrance to Fox, 17500 Millstone in Macomb Township, would make a great opportunity for his Eagle Scout project.

“This front area used to be really overgrown. To see it like that kind of brought us down,” Chorazyczewski said. “We figured if I have to do an Eagle project, it might as well benefit somewhere we’ve gone to and experienced. We kind of wanted to rejuvenate it and bring more life to it.”

Chorazyczewski and his team of volunteers removed large piles of weeds from the front landscaping and replaced them with several plants, bricks and benches, which were already located at the school.

“We reused the benches that were from a previous fifth grade gift to the school. We repurposed those, and the bricks were already here too, so we pretty much used the school’s materials to bring it back to life,” Chorazyczewski said.

In addition to repurposing materials, Chorazyczewski also received a grant from the St. Clair County Water Festival for the project’s effort in conservation. A rock in the center of the landscaping secures rain water to distribute to plants, which are all native to Michigan.

The project began when Chorazyczewski approached Fox Principal Frank Bellomo toward the end of the last school year. Bellomo was excited to agree to the work, which took about two months to complete this summer.

“We were pretty excited about it. I really couldn’t wait until they got started. I knew it was going to look good, but I was excited for them to get started and ready for the beginning of the year. We’re happy to have it,” Bellomo said.

Bellomo called the area in front of the school an “eyesore” prior to the work done by Chorazyczewski.

“It was overgrown. Things were dead with a lot of weeds, so that was awesome they were able to do that for a project, because it’s really added a nice area to the building. The district did some cement work, but adding the bricks and the new flowers, everything looks awesome,” Bellomo said.

With the completion of his Eagle Scout project behind him, Chorazyczewski has nearly fulfilled his obligations to advance to Scouting’s top rank.

He has been involved with Scouts for 12 years, and estimated that he has collected 45 merit badges and has gone on 35 different camping trips for a total of about 150 camping nights.

He is in the process of completing his final two merit badges required for Eagle Scout consideration.

Mike Langan, the assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 149, said Chorazyczewski has displayed all of the abilities troop leaders like to see in Scouts.

“He’s always been at a very high level of participation in the troop. He’s gone to all of the summer camps and has always been very engaged with all of the stuff going on with the troop,” Langan said.

As it relates to the project at Fox, Langan said he was very pleased with Chorazyczewski’s work.

“He really demonstrated all of the things we want Scouts to demonstrate — leadership, being able to organize people, lead youth as well as adults — and he did that with flying colors. It doesn’t look like much now, but I saw in the beginning how far out this all was. He did a lot of work and put in a lot of planning,” Langan said.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Thomas Franz covers Macomb Township, Chippewa Valley Schools and the Macomb County Board of Commissioners for the Macomb Township Chronicle. He also covers sports primarily for the Shelby-Utica News. He has worked for C & G Newspapers since 2013 and attended Michigan State University.
