

A TOUCH OF CREATIVITY



MARK CAVITT — MEDIANEWS GROUP

The Road Commission for Oakland County's first annual Paint-A-Plow Program allowed students to paint snow plows to be used on roadways across the county.

Students add color to county's snow plow trucks

By Mark Cavitt

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If you live in Oakland County, you may notice that some of those big, orange snow plow trucks will look a bit different this winter season.

As part of the Road Commission for Oakland County's first annual Paint-A-Plow Program, the commission invited students across the county to paint the snow plows on their trucks. A total of 11 plows were painted by students from 11 schools in five school districts including Walled Lake, Clarkston, Bloomfield Hills, Lake Orion, and Ferndale.

The artwork ranges from highly artistic, which includes several

painted to resemble Vincent Van Gogh paintings, to something more simple and fun such as school mascots and student hand prints. Over the past two months, the plows were dropped off at the schools that expressed interest in participating in the program.

Dennis Kolar, commission managing director, said this program was a great way to get the community involved in the commission's winter preparations. Snow plows are placed on the trucks when there's at least six inches of snow on the ground.

"It also helps to remind student how big these plows are and reiterates our message to stay away from the roads when the plows are out pushing snow," he said. "Since this

was the first time offering the program, we weren't sure what to expect. However, we were pleased to see such a great response, and we were able to provide a plows to all of the schools that responded."

Kolar said it's because of this success that the program will extend into next year. The road commission, which maintains over 2,700 miles of county roadway and 230 miles of state highway, has a fiscal year 2020 budget totaling \$162 million.

The participating schools included:

- Webber Elementary- Lake Orion Schools
- Orion Oaks Elementary- Lake Orion Schools

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Plows

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- Independence Elementary- Clarkston Community Schools
- Springfield Plains Elementary- Clarkston Community Schools
- Clarkston Elementary- Clarkston Community Schools

- Wing Lake Development Center- Bloomfield Hills Schools
- Bowers Academy - Bloomfield Hills Schools
- Ferndale Upper Elementary- Ferndale Schools
- Sarah Banks Middle School- Walled Lake Consolidated Schools