

COMMENTARY

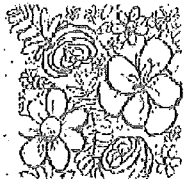
EDITORIAL

VAC winners, BMHS Senators win the bouquets

We're ready to wrap up the month of April and are looking forward to all those promised May flowers — all the ones that didn't already bloom in the summer preview of recent memory.

Yard activity seems to be the number one priority for most home owners these days, and it's good to get out in all that fresh air after those months cooped up in the house during the winter months.

It's time to carry out our usual task of scanning the horizon in the Greater Norwalk area and seek out winners of our weekly awards.

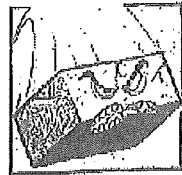


Bouquets to two Norwalkers who have set an example in promoting citizens' volunteerism in our city.

The two were honored by the Voluntary Action Center at an event at the Dolce Center. Betsy Bain, long a champion of early childhood education, received VAC's Distinguished Service Award at the

18th annual event. A former member of the Common Council and the Board of Education, she is the current chairwoman of the Norwalk Early Education Council, which concentrates on children about to enter school.

Stew Leonard Jr. accepted the corporate award for Stew Leonard's for its exceptional support of charitable events. As state Rep. Lawrence Cafero Jr. said "I don't think there's a charitable event where we haven't seen some sign, or some product or some gift that wasn't donated by Stew Leonard's."



A gentle brickbat for those homeowners who have been out in the yard, raking, trimming and planting.

The city's yard waste pickup schedule, included in your tax bill and available on the city's website, lists what week your neighborhood is scheduled for collection. You shouldn't put yard waste out a week ahead of time — especially if you use

those paper bags — because they are an eyesore and the bags may burst if we get some rain. Alternatives include using garbage cans without a lid or cardboard boxes.

Yard cleanup is great, just don't rush the pickup schedule.



Those students at Brien McMahon High School have done it again — taking on the role of the community's conscience.

The Senators Community Foundation's Peace Project, which often calls attention to child abuse, turned its attention to animal abuse. In a takeoff on its use of empty chairs in the City Hall entrance to indicate a chair for each abused child, the students placed more than 1,000 stuffed animals on the sidewalk to raise awareness of animal abuse which, it says, is closely related to child abuse.

We're not worried about this generation's awareness of today's problems.