



Donna Berlanda, Milford's Youth Services coordinator for Art in the Park, top left, is joined by students, top to bottom, left to right, Richard Conner, Rebekah Fawcett, Allison Verrastro, Erin Jacobs and Hilare Tomaszewicz in Eisenhower Park.

Art project offers a timely lesson

Students building sundial in the park

By Kerry Tesoriero
Register Staff

MILFORD — Youths involved in this year's Art in the Park project are learning to wrestle with a medium as stubborn as concrete, and one as flighty as light.

Six teen-aged artists are building a sundial at Eisenhower Park. The project, led by architect Ron D'Aurelio, is offered by the Milford Fine Arts Council and city Youth and Family Services.

With \$1,500 and three weeks, the students endeavor to set a timepiece in the center of a rotary at the entrance to the parking lot. The structure will consist of five concrete piers, or poles, the tallest of which will stand about 6 feet. It will be set into a rectangular base of tiles designed with images from the park.

Each day the students create impressions in wet concrete using found objects such as leaves, bark, twigs, nuts, acorns and broken glass. They also

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The students endeavor to set a timepiece in the center of a rotary at the entrance to the parking lot.

carve images into plastic foam and set them into square plastic containers to create molds for concrete tiles.

Brook Harvey, 16, carved a mirror image of the numeral 9 into a block of foam Tuesday, practicing. She is a junior at Joseph A. Foran High School who wants to pursue a career in special effects.

"You have to make it backwards so when you put it into the mold it comes out the right way," Harvey said.

She and the others worked quietly Tuesday, trying to get

their impressions to take hold in the mucky substance.

"Concrete is tough to apply," D'Aurelio said. As an architect, he works with it regularly. While it may be hard to use, D'Aurelio said it will teach some important concepts to the students.

"I decided to use something I'm familiar with, which is light and how light affects structures, how light and shadow create depth and texture on a surface," he said.

Another goal is to have the kids understand the sun's movement through the sky during the day. When they place the "sun clock," they will have to find true north. Magnetic north is about 138 miles from the North Pole, D'Aurelio said. The five piers will form a wedge that points toward the North Star.

Several of the teens hope to make careers out of their interest in art. Erin Jacobs, 17, will go into graphic design. Richard Conner, 16, will study computer design.

The free Art in the Park program is offered every summer and is open to all Milford high school students.