

## **Paula Vandehey**

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**From:** Marigold Mike <marigoldmike@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2015 8:40 AM  
**To:** Joe Martin; Paula Vandehey; Chris Shaw; Ross Buetow; Eric Lom; Mark Lahay; Chad M. Doran  
**Cc:** joe@foxvalleynursery.com; dschaber@athenet.net; Nancy Kohlman; Karen Harkness  
**Subject:** RE: Marigold Mile

A letter to Doug Senso from Doak Bock at the Report Center, reprinted with Doak's permission:

Greetings,

My name is Doak Bock and I am the coordinator who works with youth who are assigned community service through the court system in Outagamie County. Helping plant and maintain the Marigold Mile has been a yearly tradition for us here at the Report Center for almost two decades. I am very concerned to hear that there are plans to omit the planting strip along the roadway in the expansion of Oneida Street.

I think it's important to point out that the Marigold Mile is more than just a beautification project that makes Oneida Street look so much more beautiful. The project is something that I have used to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment with the at-risk youth I work with in the Report Center. These youth often lack self esteem and have low confidence in their abilities, so it is always awesome to see the sense of pride and accomplishment the kids find in themselves after their hard work on the Mile is completed. These youth then have something positive to point at and tell others, "I helped do that!" which is no small thing for many of these kids when you consider their life situations.

I also cannot count the number of times random people from the community have stopped by to thank us for our efforts as we work on the Mile. To be thanked for doing something positive is oftentimes a new experience for the youth I work with, and in fact the kids often get confused when it happens which provides me the opportunity to explain to them what gratitude and appreciation are. In addition it models positive reinforcement instead of the negative reinforcement so many of these kids are used to receiving which can be a game changer in the thought processes of at-risk youth.

There is no doubt that the Marigold Mile helps the community in other ways than making it look beautiful. I would implore the powers that be to consider keeping the planting strips in the Oneida Street improvements so that the community can win in multiple ways instead of just a wider Oneida Street.

Thank you for your time,

Doak Bock  
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