



Submitted Photo

Lianne Geer's drawing won third place for the sixth through twelfth grade submissions in the Rhode Island Tree Council's 2009 Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Color her tickled pink

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COVENTRY — Using colored pencils, a ruler and a poster board a little bigger than a piece of paper, Leanne Geer was able to make a big statement.

She told the story the Rhode Island Tree Council was asking for — how “Trees are Terrific in Cities and Towns.” Geer, a sixth grade student at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry, freehanded an image of a big city and of a town and then divided the two down the middle by an oversized tree. She submitted her drawing in the Rhode Island Tree Council’s 2009 Arbor Day Poster Contest and won.

Her drawing was selected as the third place winner for the sixth through twelfth grade submissions.

Geer said she was “very surprised” when she learned that her drawing was selected.

“Our [art] teacher [Diane Kowal] said that we could get involved in this contest by making the poster and that we could work on it in class or outside of class, but I did mine mostly at home after school just because I enjoyed it,” she said. “When my teacher said what it was for, I thought it would be something great to participate in because trees are terrific they give us oxygen, the birds live in them and I think the trees in my yard are pretty too, but I never thought I would win.”

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Coventry student places in contest

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“Sure I thought my picture was good, but after seeing the other two winners, I definitely didn’t think mine was as good as theirs, so I really was surprised when I found out mine had won,” she said.

As the third place winner in the contest, Geer won \$25 in cash and a certificate, she said. She also had the honor of having her drawing put on display inside the Rhode Island Statehouse and was invited to the statehouse to receive her. Geer said she had visited the statehouse before, but this

was much different.

“When I went to the statehouse this time and we entered I saw my picture on an easel in the rotunda and that was really exciting,” Geer said. “Then we went into the state room and some people read the poems that they entered into the contest too. It was a really nice afternoon.”

Geer said this was not the first time that she had entered a coloring contest, although it was the first time she won. Previously, she said, she was runner up, but this was “much more exciting.”

Geer’s poster is posted on the Rhode Island Tree Council Web site at RITree.org.