

Names

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installed announcing the new names by mid-summer.

It's not just a question of aesthetics, she noted.

"The beautification commission feels people will take better care of a creek or stream than a drain," Donigan said. "Drain makes it sound like it carries stuff to a sewage treatment plant."

The group started with two waterways just to get the process rolling.

"I think it's easier to start small," she said. "It's a way to inform the public."

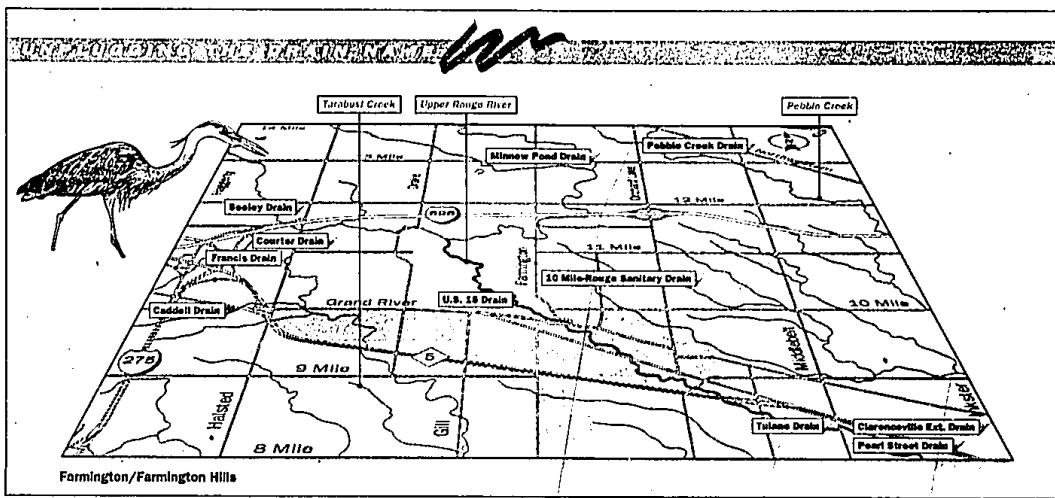
Time is also a big factor, as the renaming process will take a fair amount of effort and all commission members have put in a great deal of time as it is.

"Every single member is involved in a project," Donigan said. "And they all work for a living besides."

According to their 1999 Annual Report, presented at the Hills Council's March 27 meeting, the commission's sole purpose in 1998 and 1999 had been to improve aesthetics and safety on Orchard Lake Road, between 12 Mile and 14 Mile roads.

Among the other projects completed in 1999 were a tree maintenance video, a plant swap and beautification at the Farmington Hills Library, Costick Center and in the schools.

Chairman Jeff Stewart told city officials the commission has been "very involved" in the preservation of Natural Beauty Roads, designated to protect the natural environment around them. They targeted Halsted and 13 Mile roads in 1998 with plantings and red oak trees.



More work is planned for the coming year, he said, because development doesn't stop.

"As time goes by, that's going to eliminate the overall beauty of Farmington Hills," Stewart said, noting the road projects have not gone as smoothly as the commission would have liked, largely due to soil conditions.

Last year's plant swap did go smoothly, despite a bit of bad weather — enough so that another is planned this year on May 20.

"People who are into plant swaps are a die-hard crowd," Stewart said. "This year, we're

going to expand our plant swap to include seeds."

The commission will also work with the city's production department to create a video that may include a look at how businesses are judged in the annual beautification contest, the plant swap and other activities.

"This is just to give the public

a better idea of what the commission does," Stewart said.

Anyone with information that may help in the waterways naming process or has an interest in beautification may send them to Donigan at Farmington Hills Planning Office, 31566 W. 11 Mile, call (248) 473-9543 or you can send e-mail to mdonigan@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us.

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Marie Donigan
—Planning office

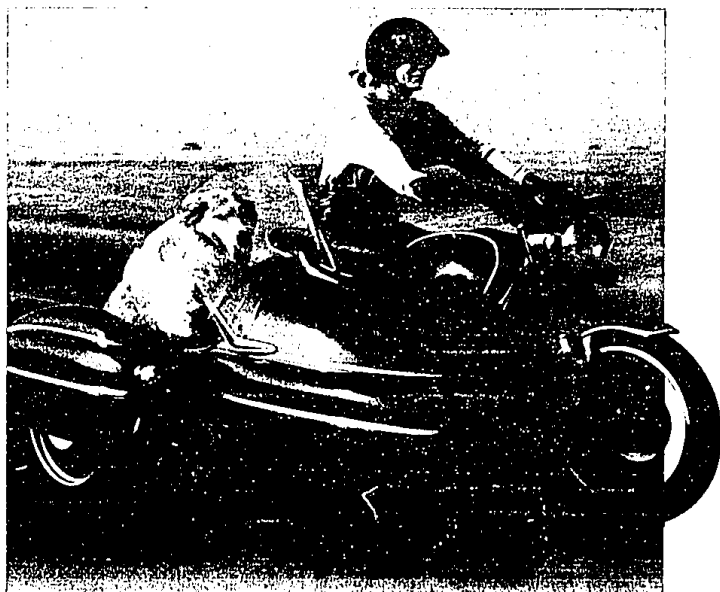
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