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AMPLE PARKING



A little paint can brighten the personality of even the ugliest plug.

## Your fire hydrant can look better through new paint

If you have a fire hydrant in your yard, you might want to give it a face-lift, courtesy of the Farmington Beautification Commission.

The beautification commission has two paint kits for those who would like to decorate fire hydrants this summer.

More than 150 hydrants have been painted to look like miniature people in a bicentennial project adopted by the commission.

There are 400 hydrants in the city. Farmington Hills is pursuing a similar project.

MRS. ROSE WAGNER of Farmington brought the idea back from South Bend, Ind., two years ago. It caught on, but the commission decided not to use the stencils sold in South Bend and use free style design instead.

Betty Holm and Joan Barbrich are cochairmen for the project.

Mrs. Barbrich said the city isn't planning to return the hydrants to their original color after the bicentennial celebration next July.

"If the people take care of them and maintain them, we can continue with the project. Otherwise, they will paint them all red again."

The commission hopes to have all the city's fire hydrants decorated by then, she said, and if the present enthusiasm keeps up, they probably will be.

"It's been real fun. We've had terrific community support."

Free paint kits may be obtained by calling Mrs. Holm, Mrs. Barbrich or the Farmington City Hall. Each kit contains several colors of paint and an assortment of brushes.

A PROJECT TO beautify a triangle of property on the corner of Farmington Road and Grand River finally has begun.

Beautification commission members hope to have the Masonic property transformed into a tiny park-like area by the end of the summer.

"The land was very barren and overgrown with shrubs. It was an eyesore, and we were concerned because it is a main downtown corner," Mrs. Barbrich said.

Several factors impeded the progress of the project, which began four years ago.

At first, she said the idea was "shuffled around" because the Masons were thinking about selling the property. After a year of indecision, the Masons finally consented to the project.

The city council gave its approval and appropriated \$1,500 for it.

Different plans for the area included a gazebo, but the idea was dropped when the commission discovered the money wouldn't stretch that far.

However, current plans by Fred Welsh, chairman of the committee, include an area in the middle of the triangle which will be equipped with benches and decorated in alternate corners with planters and trees.

The area, in the northwest corner of the Farmington Road and Grand River intersection, will be bounded by sidewalks on all sides, with a walkway cutting through the center.

THE FARMINGTON department of public services will build and maintain the area.

Railroad ties will be used to decorate and separate garden and tree areas from the benches and walkways.

Fred Steinkopf, owner of Steinkopf Nursery in Farmington, has promised to donate the trees and shrubbery for the area in memory of his mother.

One city official estimated the cost of planting the area at \$2,500.