

Hills plans hot time for its 20th birthday

By Bill Coutant
Staff Writer

On a cold March evening, several members of the Farmington Hills 20th Birthday Celebration Committee were thinking about a hot day in July.

The committee is planning a dedication ceremony for a new fountain and landscaping that will grace the city's municipal complex at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake, and a Family Day in the Park that will include activities and entertainment for all ages.

The committee will ask the city to approve \$5,000 to help pay the cost of a dedication ceremony July 1 and the family day July 11, the Sunday before the city's Founders Day Festival that begins July 15.

Committee members agreed to invite former mayors, council members and staff to the dedication ceremony. The new fountain, which is in the design stages, will be ready for the city's birthday, said City Manager Bill Costick.

"We'll be setting a bid date soon," Costick said. "It should be ready by June."

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"We already have the dunk tank," Costick said.

Committee members agreed that scheduling events close to lunch time, encouraging families to bring a picnic lunch or take advantage of food concessions that will be on hand, would involve more people in the fun.

Eric Wurlinger, assistant director of programming for the parks and recreation department, said much of the staff cost for

putting on the events has been provided for in the city's budget. But adding too many events over too many days before the Founders Festival could stretch resources.

"It's close to the Founders Festival," he said. "We don't want to duplicate too much."

About 500 people will be invited to the fountain dedication to enjoy cake and punch. The Family Day event will be for the entire community, and the committee is trying to include as few extra charges as possible for the all-day celebration.

The committee will meet again on Monday, April 6.



Look of the future: A fountain and landscaping to the east of the Farmington Hills City Hall is shown in an artist's conception.

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