## Hills officials dedicate Memorial Park at 11 Mile and Middlebelt

The dedication Monday of Farmington Hills' Memorial Park represented a triumph of nature over development, at a

busy intersection.

It also marked a crucial step in the establishment of a place where the city's honored dead



Standing proud: Billy Hinbern of Boy Scout Troop 110 holds the American flag as Mayor Nancy Bates dedicates Farmington Hills' Memorial Park.

can be remembered in a setting of natural beauty.

"We don't have anything like that in the community," said Mayor Naney Bates, adding that the city of Farmington is among several communities that have memorial parks.

"We certainly didn't want to do anything on this corner that would increase traffic," the would increase traffic," the desire to follow a dream from concept to reality. Bates said. The 3.2 are parcel was donated to the city by Hospice of Michigans are an added benefit.

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Backers say an added benefit of having a park on the corner is that it rules out business or commercial development at an intersection, which already includes a

shopping center, bank and Mercy High School.

Willows and other trees grow and the Mercy High School.

Willows and other trees grow the Mercy High School of the Park's southern edge. Several elm trees bave been planted. And will the very several elm trees bave been planted. And ochips, where more evergreen shrubs are to be planted. A row of white begonins flanks the front of the park's centerpiece – a stone marker engraved with "Memorial Park Farmington Hills."

The dedication ceremony Boy Scout Troop 110 presenting the green eity flag with yellow fringe and black and white city seal, and the stars and stripes.

"On this day and in the days to come, we honor all those who

can call the city's public services department, 473-9521, or see information posted in the park. Butes thanked the Hengice of Michigan for donating the land and members of the Memorial Park Ad Hoc Committee (Nancy Coumoundouros, Norma Henderson, Jan Hunt, Carol Kasprowicz and Shannon O'Neil) for project ideas, and Tom Biasell, Jill Pines and Dan Rooney for detail work. A donated brick costs \$100. Cost to donate landscapping materials will range from \$100 to \$1,000. Trees are \$1,000 and park benches \$5,000. Officials approved the park concept in 1998. They earlier scrapped an idea to have an eternal flame, at an estimated cost of \$250,000 with \$8,000 in annual maintenance.







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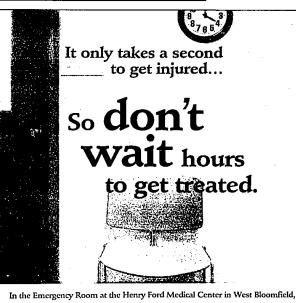
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