



City of Cambridge

100.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 8, 1997

MAYOR RUSSELL
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to set up a committee to assist in the implementation of a public beautification program similar to the City of Quincy (see attachment); and be it further
- ORDERED: That the Committee consist of people from the business community, civic organizations and city employees.

In City Council September 8, 1997.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury", is written over the printed name and title of the City Clerk.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE.

Municipal, private efforts have the city flowering

By Lane Lambert
The Patriot Ledger

The city of Granite, a.k.a. the City of Presidents, is now a city of flowers.

Quincy is awash in flowers, from the rows of poppies at city hall to the pink, white and violet cleomes, tiger lilies, petunias and roses that ring the new Granite Workers Memorial statue at William Shea Park along Copeland Street.

In Quincy Center, at the Liberty Tree Monument at Hancock and Elm streets, neat lines of low, trimmed hedges, bright orange and yellow mums and purple petunias offer pedestrians and drivers a visual oasis at the busy intersection.

Those three are among the more than 150 patches and corners around the city that have been in vibrant bloom this spring and summer — and a third of them are cultivated

and maintained by businesses, civic groups and families, in the park department's "adopt an island" program.

The program has been around since 1989, when former Mayor Frank McCauley and City Councilor Tim Cahill launched it. The number of sponsored spaces isn't dramatically higher — 51 this year, compared to 34 the first year — but residents and other observers say they've become noticeably more lush and colorful in the past couple of years.

Park officials credit two things for the improvement: The city itself has planted more flowers in once-bare spots around Quincy Center and elsewhere, while island sponsors are putting more money and effort into theirs.

"They're trying to outdo one another," joked Raymond Cattaneo, the city's forestry supervisor.

Please see FLOWERS — Page 12

City of Granite becomes city of flowers

■ FLOWERS

Continued from Page 9

Insurance company owner Anthony Agnitti, the Liberty Tree sponsor, agrees that he and others have become progressively more extravagant. "We just loaded it up this year with a lot of day lilies and other annuals," he said.

He figures he spent \$500 on flowers and ornamental shrubs this year, after spending more than \$10,000 on landscaping and a sprinkler system in 1982, the first year he sponsored the plot.

But this year's expense is a response to compliments, he says, not informal competition with other islands.

"People tell us they love it," he said. "They really enjoy seeing all the flowers."

Meanwhile, parks director Thomas Koch says his department has tried hard to match recent improvements to Quincy Center's streets, sidewalks and lights with beds and pots of petunias, mums and other varieties — most of them red, white and blue, in keeping with Quincy's presidential heritage.

It hasn't come cheap. The city is spending more than \$10,000 this year just on materials — flowers, fertilizer, peat moss and loam. Koch had no estimate of the labor cost.

But taxpayers don't seem to mind. "They tell us it gives them some pride in the city," Koch said.

Shea Park, the most showy spot of all, is a self-contained version of the adopt-an-island program. The Granite Workers

Memorial Committee has enlisted a variety of Ward 4 families, groups and businesses to sponsor small sections of the park — among them, the fifth-graders at Lincoln-Hancock Elementary School and the Saturn auto dealership. Ward 4 Councilor Michael D'Amico has a plot, too.

Unlike the city program, Shea Park sponsors don't choose the types of flowers for their areas. The memorial committee takes financial donations, and picks them, to make sure the park has a single landscaping plan.

Some of the park's sponsors do lend a hand with planting, watering and weeding, but much of that falls to Alba Tocci and Lincoln-Hancock School teacher Stephen Cantelli, the committee co-chairs.

They put in the first flowers last spring, Tocci said, "to enhance the memorial," which was unveiled in October 1994.

Now, she says, "people are in and out of the park all the time. People go there to have their lunch. Children from kindergarten go there."

Recently, she said, a Florida family stopped there during a vacation trip, because their parents and grandparents had worked in the local granite industry. Landscapers drop by too, she said, to admire the statue, the brick pavilion, and the unexpected urban thicket of flowers and foliage.

"West Quincy is so proud to have that park there," Tocci said.



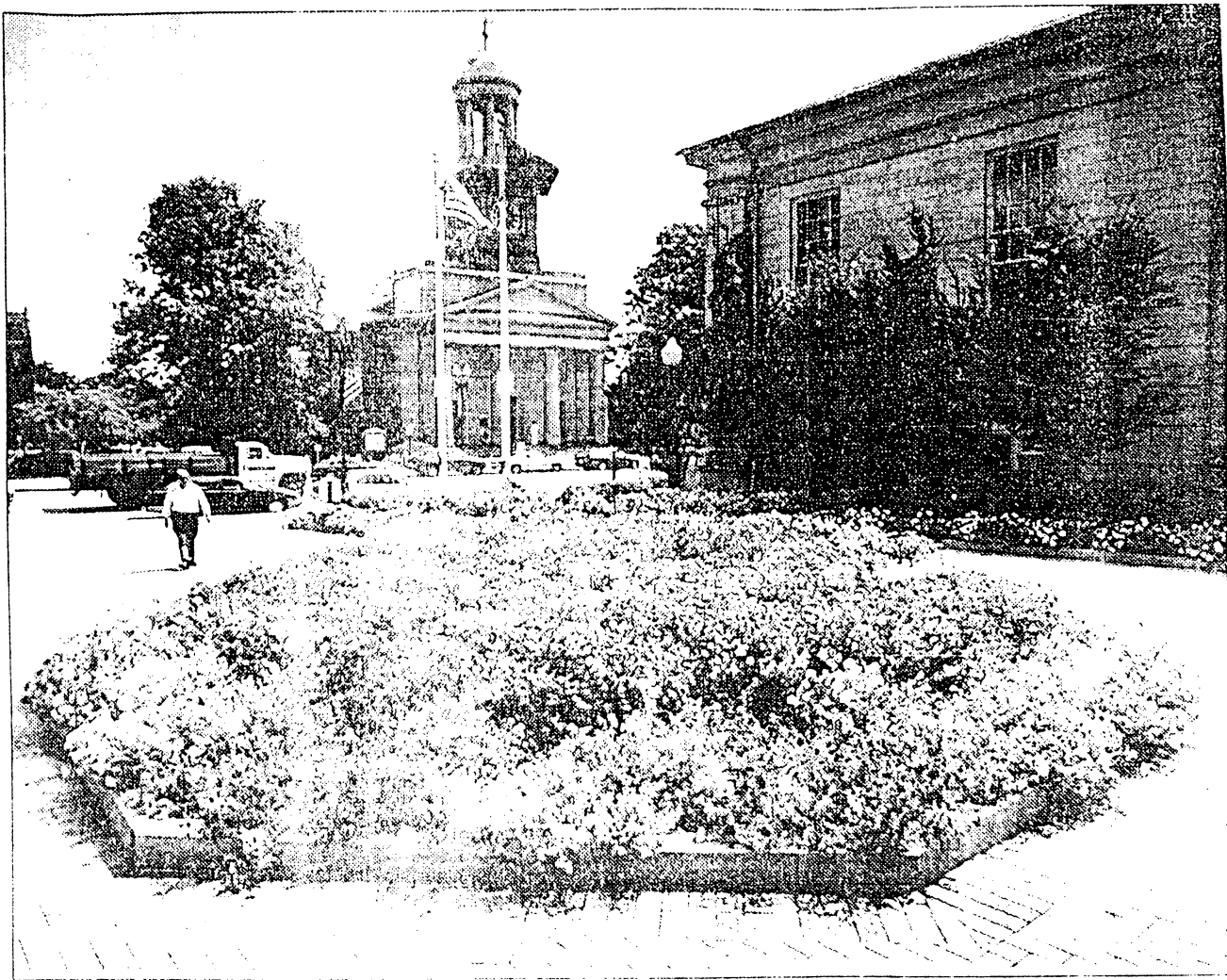
Greg Derr photos/The Patriot Ledger

This small traffic island at Fenno and Hancock streets is maintained by Keohane Funeral Service.



A sign designates the name of the sponsor of the traffic island at Fenno and Hancock streets.

QUINCY'S BUDDING

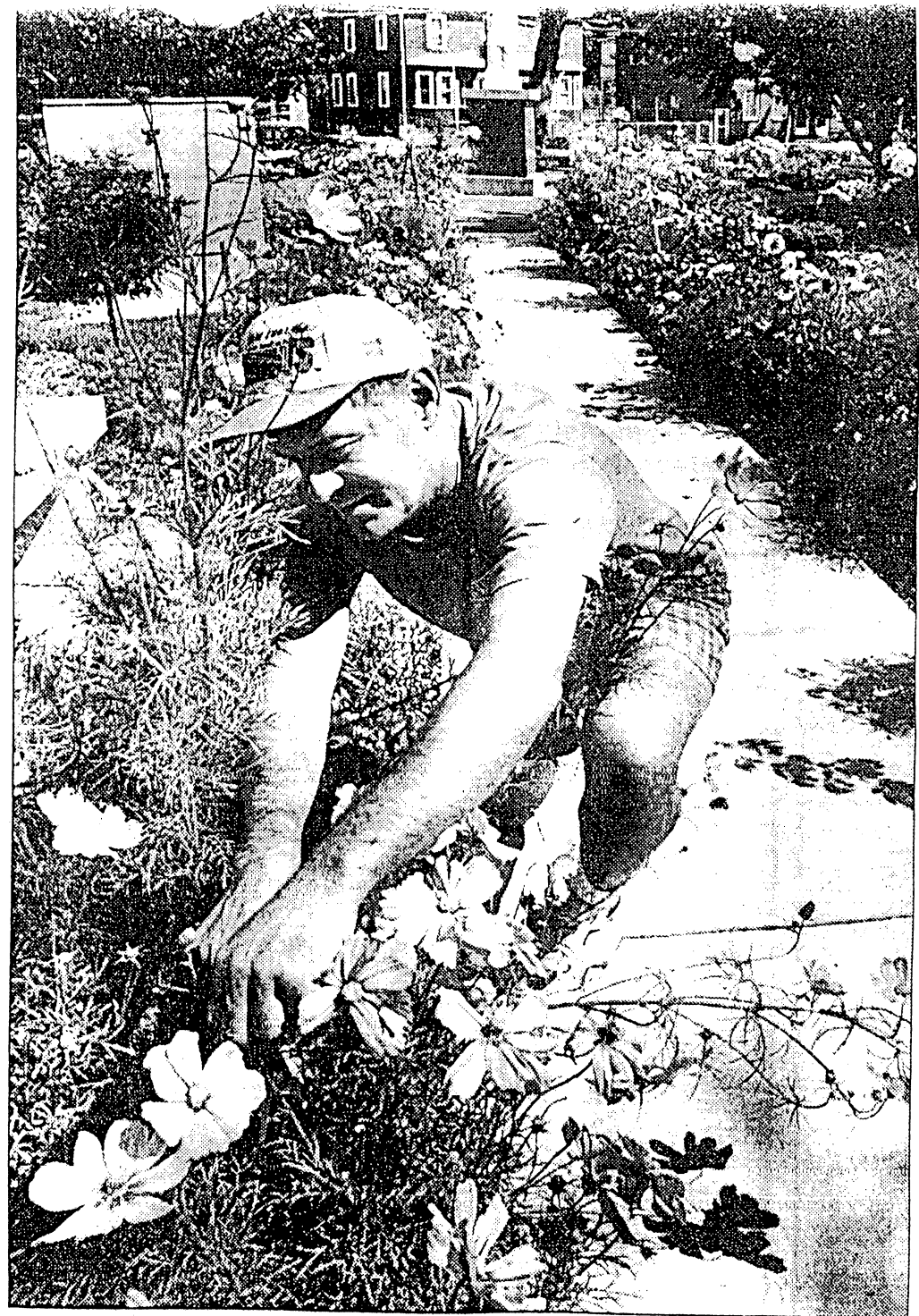


Greg Derr photos/The Patriot Ledger

A citizen-sponsored flower garden, one of dozens across Quincy, brightens up the grounds of city hall.



Flowers enhance the beauty of the Abigail Adams statue in Quincy Center.



Steve Cantelli of Quincy weeds a flower bed in Stonecutter Park on Centre Street in West Quincy. Cantelli's grandfather was a blacksmith during the heyday of Quincy's granite industry.

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VICE MAYOR BORN

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RECEIVED BY
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Davis, Duhay, Galluccio, Sullivan
Consent Order #100
Toomey / Triantafyllou
Mayor Russell and Vice Mayor Born
re: Committtee to assist in the
implementation of a public
beautification program. S-502

In City Council September 8, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED

Referred to Public Service
Committee.

sent to V.M. Born 9/12/97.