

People who adopt a hydrant receive the above certificate from the city.

Safety-Conscious Residents 'Adopt' Snowed-In Fireplugs

By Russell B. Eames
Of the Telegram Staff

Ninety fire hydrants in the city have new "parents."

According to the city Department of Public Works, the adopt-a-hydrant program has proven to be popular as persons all over the city have decided to "care" for them.

Linda Ballard of the DPW is coordinating the program aimed at having people clear snowbanks away from the fireplugs. Then, if a fire should occur, firefighters would have easy access to hydrants in their attempt to save property.

DPW Commissioner F. Worth Landers announced the program at a recent City Council meeting and the idea caught on, Mrs. Ballard said.

Also, in cooperation with the School Department, flyers were sent home with schoolchildren outlining how to adopt one of the lifesavers, because, as the flyers said, "Firefighters must use these hydrants to put out fires and keep our neighborhoods safe."

The flyer explains that a family can pick out a hydrant near its home, write down the address of the house or intersection nearest the hydrant and call the DPW to say "I'd like to adopt a fire hydrant."

The DPW sends out an official certificate of adoption, written with calligraphy,

that certifies that the family has adopted the hydrant. The hydrant's location and the date of adoption also are included.

The certificate is signed by City Manager William J. Mulford, Landers and Fire Chief James F. Nally.

Instructions on "how to care for your hydrant" also are sent out with the certificate. They say that snow should be removed for a three-foot clearance on all sides to help firefighters locate the hydrant, that leaks should be reported, and that in the summer weeds should be cleared from around the hydrant so it can be easily spotted in an emergency.

The instructions also say that the hydrants should not be painted because they are covered with reflectorized paint to help the Fire Department locate them and are color-coded to match the water service system to which they are connected.

The instructions caution against opening the hydrants because this lowers the water pressure in the area and the pressure could be inadequate to fight a fire successfully. Also, it could lead to rusty water in the area.

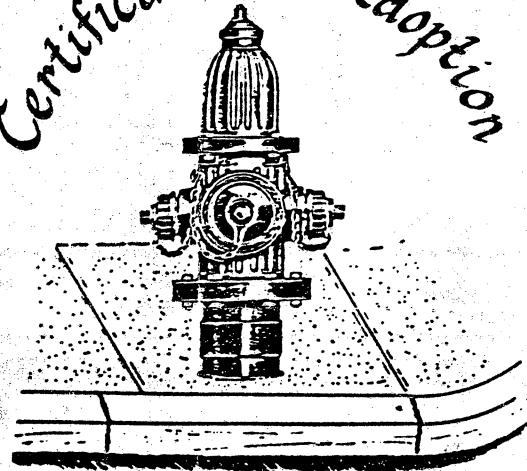
There are some DPW crews out clearing some of the hydrants but they can't get to all of them, Landers has said.

Mrs. Ballard said that the adoption program has been very successful, but said there are about 4,000 more hydrants that need the tender loving care of a family.

City of Worcester

WORCESTER
TELEGRAM
2-18-87

Certificate of Adoption



This is to certify that

has adopted the fire hydrant located at

Date of Adoption: _____

William J. Mulford
William J. Mulford, City Manager

F. Worth Landers
F. Worth Landers, Commissioner
Department of Public Works

James F. Nally
James F. Nally, Fire Chief



City of Cambridge

13.

IN CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILOR RUSSELL

February 23, 1987

- WHEREAS: Snow removal has been an especially difficult and costly program this winter; and
- WHEREAS: Our Fire Department has the responsibility for removing snow around many hydrants, a task which is very time consuming; and
- WHEREAS: Some citizens, young and old, might like to assist the Fire Department in this area; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED: That the City embark on an "Adopt-A-Hdyant" Program like the program initiated in Worcester and described in the attached news clipping from the Worcester Telegram which would aid the Fire Department in the care of hydrants.

now



City of Cambridge

13.

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IN CITY COUNCIL
February 23, 1987

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- WHEREAS: Our Fire Department has the responsibility for removing snow around many hydrants, a task which is very time consuming; and
- WHEREAS: Some citizens, young and old, might like to assist the Fire Department in this area; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED: That the City embark on an "Adopt-A-Hdyant" Program like the program initiated in Worcester and described in the attached news clipping from the Worcester Telegram which would aid the Fire Department in the care of hydrants.

In City Council February 23, 1987
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 7 members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph E. Connarton".

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

Order #13 *S-116*

C. Russell re: resolutions that the
City embark on an "Adopt-A-Hydrant"
Program which would aid the Fire Dept.
in the care of hydrants.

In City Council,

February 23, 1987

C. Russell

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