

Garden Club Members Plant Shrubs at Fire Station

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NORTH ANDOVER — Ahead of temperatures dropping into the teens this weekend, members of the North Andover Garden Club took advantage of the warm sun Thursday morning to complete a beautification project at the local fire station.

In mid-October, members of the club put down mulch and planted some shrubs around the sign of the central station on Chickering Road.

"We donated the shrubs, and a tree planted in memory of past Garden Club members," said Brenda Reeve, a club member.

The land around the new central station has been unadorned since the station opened in 2015.

Chief Bill McCarthy said he reached out to the Garden Club a few months ago because he wanted to thank them for making the wreaths around the holidays, which the club has done for years to hang at town buildings.

"[The wreaths] always just show up, and we sort of just put them out," he said.

When he got in touch with the club, they invited him to a meeting over the summer and the idea for the fire station beautification was born.

On Thursday, club members planted dozens of daffodil bulbs that will sprout in the spring and flower for years to come.

"They're hardy, and deer resistant," said Reeve.

"And we do have deer," McCarthy said with a laugh.

All of the plants were donated by the club, but they "left most of the heavy work for the firefighters," said Birgit Blass, club president.

McCarthy said he appreciated the work they did to make the new central station have a little more color.

"They do so much around town, and I don't think they get enough recognition for what they do," said McCarthy.