

# Beautification campaign kicks off this week in area

By **JIM DINO**

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The Hazleton area's "Red White and Blue" campaign will begin this week.

Dan Guydish, executive director of the Mountain Council of Governments (M-COG), said flowers to commemorate the annual patriotic campaign in the area will be available for pickup by municipalities and other groups Thursday.

Guydish said the flowers can be picked up between 10 and 11 a.m. in the rear parking lot of Printmark Industries, 600 S. Poplar St., Hazleton.

Groups are asked to notify Julie or Denise at the Chamber of Commerce today at 455-1508 if their communities will participate this year.

The campaign began in 1999 and has been held each year between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The campaign is marked by the planting of red, white and blue flowers, and the placement of red, white and blue bows, all over the area.

M-COG members have some other issues on their plate.

Guydish said M-COG is reviving efforts to submit an

application for a grant to purchase a sewer camera that can be used by member municipalities.

This grant, Guydish said, is a 50-50 between the state and the participating municipalities.

"It's a great deal without too much investment," Guydish said.

Another issue is the M-COG advertising for bids for salt and anti-skid. Any municipality that wants to participate in the bidding process for salt and anti-skid is asked to let Guydish know.

"Your projected totals are due for the August meeting," Guydish said, reminding members that the July meeting has been cancelled.

Another issue is the abandoned vehicle project, aimed at getting abandoned autos off the streets of all area municipalities by intergovernmental cooperation.

"This project will allow you to get your abandoned vehicles off the street at no cost to your community," Guydish said. "We want all these projects to be a success. If you are interested in any or all of these projects, contact me at the chamber at 455-1508 and leave a message."