



The Greater Hazleton Civic Partnership launched "Red, White and Blue," the annual community-wide civic pride initiative on Memorial Day weekend by planting red, white and blue flowers and decorating with bunting and bows in Memorial Park. Working on some of the bows at the Greater Hazleton Senior Citizen Center are, clockwise: Ruth Potenze, Meda Rossi, Mary Capparell, Helen Samsel, Nemencia Franco, Carmella Dennish, and Millie DeMelfi.

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Civic Partnership launches annual civic pride initiative

The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership launched "Red, White and Blue," the annual community-wide civic pride initiative, on Memorial Day weekend by planting red, white and blue flowers and decorating with bunting and bows in Memorial Park in Hazleton.

In addition, the steps of Hazleton's City Hall were adorned with red, white and blue bows. This initiative is designed to complement and build upon the many good works that are already being done by organizations, clubs, etc. to improve the image of the Greater Hazleton Area in addition to honoring those who served our country in the armed forces.

As a community based organization, the Civic Partnership is asking everyone to do their part by taking pride in their neighborhoods, towns and our community. "Our goal is to get enough people doing things around a common theme to make a difference. All we ask is that people carry the patriotic theme of red, white and blue as they plant. "The options are limitless," said Mrs. Art Whitaker, Chairperson of the Red, White and Blue Committee.

Scheduled activities include flower planting as well as the strategic placement of signs and ribbons throughout the Hazleton Area. The committee is also encouraging both the public and private sectors to join in by displaying decorative bunting, the planting of flowers, trees and shrubs and displaying patriotic ribbons.

Penny Cannella, committee co-chair added, "We're delighted by the positive response we had to this initiative. To date, flowers were donated by Wal-Mart, Boscov's, Lowe's and several flower tents. Ribbon was once again donated by Berwick industries. Under the direction of Carol Kay, the ribbon is being transformed into beautiful decorative bows by the Greater Hazleton Senior Citizens. Special thanks to the Laurel Mall and Penn State Hazleton for showing their civic pride by planting red, white and blue flowers at their entrances. Anyone interested in serving on the committee, making a monetary contribution for ongoing beautification or donating perennials are asked to contact the Civic Partnership at 455-1508."

Bob Skulsky, executive director of the Civic Partnership added, "We want the communities in the Hazleton Area to be a blaze of red, white and blue heralding us as communities that have spirit and pride. A place where people can and do work together to make a difference. We challenge you to join us in catching the spirit and passing it on."