

Downtown flowers part of campaign

By **JIM DINO**

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Downtown Hazleton has flowers all over it, thanks to the Red, White and Blue campaign.

The committee that plants the flowers, part of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership, recently got help and planted donated flowers in pots at key locations downtown.

Ellie Whitaker, the committee chair, said Alcoa/Kama and the Volunteer Center of Greater Hazleton's Hazleteens helped the committee plant red, white and blue flowers in 38 pots along Broad Street, between Locust and Pine streets.

"We had 30 pots, and the Downtown Committee of the Chamber of Commerce donated eight more," Whitaker said. "We put them at two corners at each intersection, and at City Hall."

Whitaker said when more flowers come in – she is looking for geraniums – more planting will be done at Memorial Park.

"We had a lot of cooperation this year," Whitaker said.

She credited the following entities with helping with the program in some way: The City of Hazleton and its Shade Tree Commission, Smilax Floral Shop, Boscov's, the Volunteer Center of Greater Hazleton and Van Hoekelen Greenhouses, which donated 25 hanging baskets.

Whitaker also said Berwick Industries donated "enough ribbon to last us a few years" in the bow portion of the Red, White and Blue program.

Once again, the Greater Hazleton Senior Citizens will tie the bows, which will be distributed all over the area.

Meanwhile, Skulsky said volunteers and employees of Cargill Foods (Excel) gave three hours of their time to plant 3,000 shrubs at the Gateway entrances along Route 924, Route 424 and Route 93.