



SUZI BUMBERA/Standard-Speaker

Members of the Red, White and Blue Committee decorate Hazleton's City Hall Saturday as a kickoff for "Paint The Towns Red, White, and Blue 2000". May 20th plantings will be held at Memorial Park and all municipalities of Hazleton. In foreground from left are: Eileen Whitaker, RWB 2000 chair and Jo-Ann Yannuzzi, Executive Director of Civic Partnership. In back : Pat and Jerry Matteo, committee members of RWB 2000.

# Red, White and Blue Committee prepare for annual beautification campaign

Members of the Red, White and Blue Committee of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership officially prepared for the organization's annual beautification campaign by decorating City Hall on Saturday.

It was done in conjunction with the statewide Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful project.

On May 20, Hazleton and all area municipalities will begin "decorating" their communities with flowers, bows and flags.

"The partnership will provide bows and flowers to each of the communities for their municipal building or park as a joint effort to increase community pride," said Ellie Whitaker, chairperson.

"The downtown merchants will cooperate with the placement of flowers, bows and flags – and our area will be a blaze of color as we spring into summer with a feeling of pride and spirit."

Jim Boyle, president of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, expressed his delight at the cooperation being generated for the project.

"Everything we can do to beautify the community, to generate community pride and to make the Hazleton area more impressive to both residents and visitors *has* to be positive," he said.

Boyle said the chamber has been working with the downtown business community in an effort to beautify the downtown.

Other things also are being done, he said. "And *all* of them are very positive."

This is the second year for the "Paint the Town Red, White and Blue" project.

Preparing the bows that will be used are the seniors at the Greater Hazleton Senior Citizens Center and Vine Manor, and people associated with Volunteers of America.

Helping coordinate the bow-making are Pat Bacher, Carol Morgan, Mary Jane Ricco and Renee Chirico, as well as Whitaker and Pat Matteo, members of the Red, White and Blue Committee.

Bacher has been supervising seniors at Vine Manor make

some of the bows.

"Let's face it," she said. "Seniors are the most patriotic (residents) of the city."

"We're very, very happy to be part of this," added Bacher.

"After all, partnerships are where it's at because nobody can do it alone. It takes a whole bunch of people (getting together) to do it right."

To date the civic partnership has received contributions toward the Red, White and Blue campaign from Berwick Industries, Boscov's, Conyngham Builders, Flower Tent Co., Hazleton Painting, Hazleton Wal-Mart Supercenter, Lowe's Home Improvement Center and Wagner Brothers Hardware.

"Cooperation between elected officials, citizens and businesses ensures the success of projects such as this," said Jo-Ann Yanzuzzi, executive director of the organization.

"It continues the mission of the partnership to make Greater Hazleton the best place to live, learn, work, worship and play."