

# Community comes together for fitting memorial

by Lisa W. Hoppenjans

A very special dedication will kick off the 51st Annual Dale Fall Festival and the Town's 175th Anniversary celebration.

The two flagpoles kitty-corner from Dale City Park will be more than just something to look at. The area will be a lovely place where a person can sit for a moment of quiet reflection.

The Dale Development Group was established to promote the Town of Dale and encourage it to prosper in the future.

The flagpole memorial is their first project. "We had wanted to do this for a long time," says Dale Clerk-Treasurer Cindy Morrison. "We couldn't get it organized for last year's Festival, but how much more fitting that we can do it for the 175th!"

Four members of the Dale Development Group (who jokingly refer to themselves as the "Flagpole Coalition") met on three consecutive Friday nights. Kathy Reinke, Heather Gries, Lori Peter and Cindy Morrison brainstormed, then began contacting businesses and individuals.

The response was phenomenal. Clerk-Treasurer Morrison approached the Dale Town Council, outlining plans for the new monument honoring both the Town's

175th birthday and those who have served in the military. She gave a budget estimate, but explained the group was soliciting donations.

Council members told her to "run with it," and voted to cover any shortfalls.

"They turned us loose," chuckles Cindy.

That was back in July. In a very short time, everything fell into place.

And the Town won't be on the hook for much at all.

Vectren initially offered to help paint the existing flagpoles. But, when new poles were obtained, they were still eager to contribute, so they pulled the existing poles.

Jim Gries and Trevor Horney offered to install the new poles, but digging the holes for the concrete bases was proving to be a chore.

Enter James Gruber, of Gruber Industries, who brought his equipment to efficiently accomplish the task.

Gries and Horney handled the installation, which was still a monumental task.

The ladies of the Flagpole Coalition approached Matt and Ashlyn Hayco, owners of Complete Lawn Care & Landscaping, about some decorative elements.

A short time later, Matt and Ashlyn called with an offer — a very generous offer.

They would have their Director of Landscape Design, Matt Bell of Mariah Hill, create a lovely space that would encompass the two flagpoles and provide room for a bench. An area would also be designated for the planned commemorative plaque. Complete Lawn Care & Landscaping and their Flint Hill Landscape Supply division would donate and install all elements, including some perennials. They politely declined an offer of assistance, since they wanted it to showcase their work.

"[Honoring our military] is something Ashlyn and I care deeply about," Matt Hayco notes. "There's a lot of military in both our backgrounds, so it was an easy decision."

The "bones" of the memorial handled, there were still details to be ironed out.

Cindy and Heather explored the woods on the Gries property seeking rocks and boulders to add to the landscaping. They came upon a nearly square boulder that could easily be used as a bench. Schum Monuments offered to inscribe the base with "Dedicated to our Armed Forces" at no cost. Schum Monuments will also, at cost, engrave the plaque, whose wording came with a lot of help from Dale's resident historian, Daryl Lovell:

*THE TOWN OF DALE WAS FOUNDED WITH THE NAME ELIZABETH ON APRIL 26, 1843, NAMED IN HONOR OF ELIZABETH WOOD JONES. WHEN THE TOWN REQUESTED A POST OFFICE IN 1844 THERE WAS AN EXISTING ELIZABETH POST OFFICE, THEREFORE, A NEW NAME WAS REQUIRED. THE TOWN WAS RENAMED AFTER CONGRESSMAN ROBERT DALE OWEN WHO HELPED ACQUIRE THE POST OFFICE.*

Flags must be lit after dark, so Quality Craft Construction installed the electric box and conduits.

Pumpkins and More has offered to supply some of their stunning mums.

"The only thing we're left to pay for is one flagpole, lighting and the plaque, but that's at cost," Morrison smiles.

Dedication of the new memorial will kick off the 51st Annual Dale Fall Festival at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, September 6. The Color Guard from Dale American Legion Post 444 will participate.

The beautiful addition to the Town of Dale is the Dale Development Group's first official project.

It will not be their last.

*Happy 175th  
DALE!*

*Celebrate  
at the Fall  
Fest*

**Eck-Mundy  
Associates**

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James Gruber of Gruber Industries brings equipment to help dig the hole to place the flag poles.