



Submitted photo

The Blue Star Memorial Marker set to be unveiled in Triangle Park on Nov. 9 will look similar to this one from by the National Garden Club.

Blue Star dawning

By Vince Mancuso

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Curious residents have noticed things are moving around in Papillion's Triangle Park as a raised garden has formed and structures are being installed.

The Papillion Garden Club has announced that a Blue Star Memorial Marker will be placed in the park near the corner of Halleck and Jefferson streets to honor members of the armed forces from the past, the present and the future.

"This is the first veterans' memorial in Papillion," said Connie Leversee, chair of the Blue Star Memorial committee.

Leversee said the idea of installing the memorial — which can only be purchased through the National Garden Club — came from a few factors, first of which was the desire to give back to the community.

"We felt like we wanted to use our money for Papillion," Leversee said.

The marker will be funded by the club's various fundraising projects, including the annual craft fair which will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran's Family Life Center, 520 W. Lincoln St.

Leversee said she also got the idea during one of her winter trips to the southern states, where she first came across such a marker.

The marker features a blue

star, which is symbolic of actions taken by families of the past. When a family would have a member sent off to serve in a war, the family would hang a blue star in the window.

"This marker is something we wanted to do for the community and the veterans," Leversee said.

The club has also received support from the Papillion Junior Women's Club, as well as the Papillion Parks Department. Leversee credited Papillion Parks Director Tony Gowan for being a large help to the memorial.

"We've had great assistance from the city," Leversee said.

Gowan said the city has assisted with the park maintenance, while the Papillion Garden Club will tend to the memorial and garden itself.

"What we're doing is constructing the sidewalk to the planter bed," Gowan said.

He said the city also helped search for a location for the memorial after it was approached for the project two years ago and will construct spot lighting for the display. The city has future plans to further honor the veterans by installing the icons for the various military branches in the path.

"This is a nice hand-in-hand project that's coming to fruition in November," Gowan said.

Currently, the club and the city are aiming for a Nov. 9 unveiling and dedication.