

Firefighter memorial construction under way

By Amy Monahan
Staff Reporter

ANDERSON TWP. – The flags are already waving in the breeze.

But, more construction and fund-raising are under way to honor Anderson Township firefighters with the new memorial at Beech Acres Park.

Firefighters have been volunteering their time to make the memorial a reality, with flagpoles and a landscaped wall already complete at the site.

Fund-raising for the project has been on-going since 2001, with \$130,000 still needed to complete phase 2 and have a perpetual endowment for upkeep, said Mark Owens, a firefighter/paramedic with Anderson Township and organizer of the memorial.

Phase 1 of the memorial, which is hoped to be complete by the end of the year, includes a viewing area, bronze firefighter statue, as well as the flagpoles, Owens said.

Through fund-raisers and donations, the \$75,000 cost for the first phase was raised, with other materials donated, he said.

Phase 2 includes granite walls, a walkway, granite benches and the memorial platform listing

Benefit concert

The Turpin High School Concert and Symphonic bands and the Anderson Community Band will host a December holiday concert to benefit the Anderson Township Firefighters Memorial. The concert, which features patriotic and holiday music, is set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, at Turpin High School, 2650 Bartels Road.

Tickets are \$5 and all proceeds benefit the memorial project. Call 232-7770 ext. 2814 for ticket reservations and information. For mail order: Checks should be made payable to Turpin Band Boosters, c/o John Fecker, Turpin High School, 2650 Bartels Road, 45244.

those who have died due to duty-related injury or illness, the duty roster of all who have served the department and the current duty roster, Owens said.

"It has a lot of meaning to the people of Anderson and families who have been a part of the organization," he said.

The memorial is also educational and will hopefully instill community pride, Owens said.

Firefighter/paramedic Scott Metzke volunteered with some of the landscaping work because the project is significant, he said.



Construction on the first phase of the Anderson Township Firefighter's Memorial is under way at Beech Acres Park. Three flagpoles at the site were installed last week. At left, pictured with one of the flagpoles, is Assistant Chief Dave Dreyer (retired) formerly of the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department and Firefighter Mark Owens. Owens and Dreyer have led the fund-raising committee that is working on the memorial project. Phase 1 of the project is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

"I wanted to do my part to help out," he said. "It's important."

To donate to the memorial

efforts, call the fire department at 624-3800.

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