



Janice R. Kiaski

A NEW LOOK — The entrance to Richmond Union Cemetery where Memorial Day services will be observed Monday at approximately 11:30 a.m. has been improved to include an arch and two landscaped flower beds. The project initiated by the Salem Township trustees was a community effort that involved community service work by members of the 43 Ramblers 4-H Club. At the site are, from left, Charli McConnell, Tommi McConnell, Blake Judy and Taylor Tinney, all of the 43 Ramblers; second row, Jess Long, project supporter; Judy Greer, the township's fiscal officer; Tom McConnell, Terry Bell and Glenn Mills, township trustees; and back row, Josh McConnell, 43 Ramblers; Mollie McConnell, 43 Ramblers club adviser; Sandy Judy, town historian; Ann Tinney, community helper; and Edward Gregor, cemetery groundskeeper.

New arch, landscaping at Richmond cemetery

By JANICE R. KIASKI

Staff writer

RICHMOND — "It is beautiful, isn't it?" Salem Township trustee Glenn Mills wondered aloud as he surveyed the new entrance to Richmond Union Cemetery located off state Route 152 south.

Just in time for Memorial Day services there Monday morning, the cemetery has a new look, thanks to the Salem Township Trustees, who initiated the purchase and installation of a steel arch, and representatives of the 43 Ramblers 4-H Club, who pre-

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pared and landscaped two large flower beds on each side of the arch.

As final landscaping work was in progress early Tuesday evening, Mills observed the activity with an apparent sense of satisfaction.

"I think it's a great job," Mills said of the project he said he had attempted to undertake several years ago without success until he mentioned it to fellow trustees Tom McConnell and Terry Bell.

"I tried to get it done several years ago but I didn't have the push," said Mills, a trustee for more than 20 years. "As soon as I mentioned it to Tom (McConnell) one day and Terry (Bell), too, they was all for it," Mills added.

In a matter of several months from start to finish, the cemetery entrance boasts a new arch, the trustees said, through Brian Carroll of Carroll Ironworks.

The arch, a township-funded project that cost an estimated \$2,300, was crafted locally but sent away to be galvanized and powder coated "so it would last without any maintenance for a long time to come," Bell said.

"It's a great community project as you can see," Bell said of youth from the 43 Ramblers 4-H club led by Mollie and Tom McConnell as they performed community service work at the site.

Josh McConnell, Charli McConnell, Tommi McConnell, Blake Judy and Taylor Tinney were on hand to help prepare and plant flowers and shrubs in the two beds.

Club members also had helped previously positioning stones outlining the beds and filling them, according to Bell, who said the stones were from the old Grant School in Steubenville that was torn down last year. The stones were donated and delivered by Steve Vukelic of RSV Inc.

"Mr. Mills always wanted an arch at the cemetery," explained Tom McConnell, "and I guess at one time there used to be one here." A village history book from 1976 suggests that and the notion was substantiated by the late Don Thompson, who was the town's historian, according to Sandy Judy, project supporter.

"We suspect there was some form of an arch or gate here," Bell said, noting chiseled stones found in the cemetery give the impression that an arch existed at the cemetery established in 1880.

"I'm glad it's done," said Tom McConnell, township trustee, of the project. "I think it looks good."

The improvements come just in time for the Memorial Day services at the cemetery where Lee Kinney will be the guest speaker. His

topic will be "Watch for and Foster Signs of Patriotism." Kimberly Judy will recite Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

The cemetery services will come at the conclusion of the parade sponsored by the Richmond Lioness Club. It begins at 11 a.m. and will feature Don and Becky Swickard as its grand marshals. Cassie Judy and Abby Taylor will be wreath carriers.

The Richmond American Legion Honored Seven Post 740 will lead the parade with post Commander Dan Vojvodich, master of ceremonies, encouraging all veterans of all wars to march in the parade.

A vehicle will be available to transport those unable to walk the parade route down Main Street and on to the cemetery. Any veterans interested in participating should meet at the Legion Hall on Legion Street at 10 a.m..

Morning activities will include a community breakfast at Richmond United Methodist Church from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. by donation and the Richmond Community Historical Society will sponsor an open house at the

Crew House Museum on Main Street from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with special displays.

Bell said the cemetery project already has generated positive feedback, including from village resident Jess Long, who said she and friend Donna Blake had hoped for such an improvement for many years.

"I am so tickled," Long said. "I'm so proud of them and so proud it's going to be done for Memorial Day."

Bell figures once the Memorial Day festivities are observed there, more positive comments will follow.

"After the parade and programs, I can just imagine what the residents of Salem Township are going to have to say," Bell said.