

Loan would help get park finished by end of year

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middletown

One feature at the township veterans memorial park will be a World War II-era Sherman tank.

A veterans memorial park in Middletown might be finished by the end of the year if the township supervisors approve a \$250,000 loan to the veterans committee that's overseeing construction of the park, supervisors Chairman Chuck Thompson said.

He said the supervisors will consider the loan at their Tuesday night meeting. Thompson said he would vote in favor.

If the loan is approved, it would be paid back by the veterans committee through fundraising at the rate of \$50,000 a year for five years, said Thompson. The \$250,000 is available in the township's parks and recreation capital budget and the loan wouldn't necessitate a tax increase, he added.

Work on the veterans memorial park next to the township public works complex on Veterans Highway (Route 413) already is well under way, using labor donated by local union members, volunteers and money raised by the veterans committee. The loan probably would allow the park to be finished much sooner than originally forecast, Thompson said.

"They've done a terrific job, and it would be a shame to see the work there come to a halt because they are short on money," he said. "It will turn out to be a beautiful park and terrific asset to the township, and a great place to honor our veterans."

A World War II-era Sherman tank has been placed on a concrete pad, where it will remain as a permanent part of the park, said Veterans Committee member James Remer. Preparatory work has also been done on a pavilion, veterans memorial wall and other features, he said.

Members of the local carpenters, operating engineers, electricians and other unions have donated about 1,000 hours of labor to the park, and other volunteers have donated another 1,000, said Remer.

"That's unheard of and beautiful to watch," he said. "This park, in today's economy, would not have gotten nearly this far without this kind of help. It's been incredible."

To help or for more information, call 215-750-3825.

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