

for Building of Village Green Gazebo

ported via a flatbed truck to the Village Green, where a concrete base foundation had been laid by employees of the Ralph Checchio company. The remainder of the gazebo was completed by the UCVTS students on site.

Township officials had originally planned to dedicate the gazebo during the community's Memorial Day observance on May 25, but rainy weather delayed completion of the project, and the ceremony was postponed until this month. Inclement weather on Memorial Day also forced the cancellation of the traditional holiday parade through Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Students in the construction technology program work on local community projects like this as part of their curriculum, according to Mr. Knittel. Construction technology is one of many trade courses offered by the vo-tech school through its daytime, evening and summer programs.

The instructor said such work experiences help build students' organizational skills by requiring them to plan ahead for the tools and materials they will need to bring with them to a job site, as well as giving them "a real taste" of working on a project outside the structured "shop" environment of the school. Students in the construction technology program typically go on to careers in building, home remodeling or other specialty fields, Mr. Knittel added.



JOB WELL DONE...A group of young people stand in the finished gazebo, which was decorated with patriotic bunting for Memorial Day weekend. It was dedicated by Mayor Joan Papen on October 3.

He noted that some of the individuals who worked on the gazebo had previously installed a Victorian trim along the Fanwood train station building, while other construction technology students have erected complete houses in Plainfield as part of Habitat for Humanity.

The students who took part in the gazebo project included Paul C. Cacciatore, Travis J. Ferrara and Daniel Guzman, all of Scotch Plains; Jason M. Durr and John Thompson of Westfield, and Joseph E. Harris, Terry D. Hundar and Phillip A. Washington of Plainfield.

Other participants were William E. Allen and Brian P. Di Alfonso of Rahway; Giuseppe M. Butera and David Q. Lucarello of Union; Amy M. Roynak, Justin C. Williams and Michael P. Nichols of Linden; Brian A. Avent of Hillside, and Markeem J. Davis of Roselle. Rounding out the group were Alejandro Rodriguez of Edison; Jim K. Roof of Berkeley Heights, and Davis Vazquez of Elizabeth.

Members of the Task Force foresee use of the gazebo for wedding photographs and other special occasions, as well as for a parade viewing stand. There are also plans to enhance the gazebo, which is already wired for lighting, with plantings, a lattice-work base and other accoutrements.

Mr. Grisi, a 15-year-resident of Scotch Plains, said he had an opportunity to visit with the UCVTS students while the gazebo was in progress, and reported that the group "felt proud that they were working on something where they can drive down Park Avenue

and tell their friends and parents, 'I worked on that.'"

Describing the project as a "true experience" for those looking towards careers in construction or related fields, he observed that, "you could see this was a group of young people committed to getting this done, and they helped the downtown Scotch Plains community," he concluded.



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