

New Gazebo Graces Mansfield's North Common



Wicked Local photo by Susan Parkou Weinstein

The North Common has a new gazebo thanks to the generosity of local businessman Joseph Gonsalves

By Susan Parkou Weinstein

Wicked Local Mansfield

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The future of North Common is looking a lot rosier with the arrival of Joseph Gonsalves' gazebo.

The local businessman and philanthropist, who turns 83 in July, donated the gazebo to the town to help "dress up" the long-neglected park that abuts the commuter rail station.

After the area around the gazebo is landscaped and the sidewalk repaired, the town will hold a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony to honor Gonzalves, owner of the Canoe River Campground.

"He's a grand and wonderful man," Town Manager William Ross said.

Selectman Doug Annino, an architect, is working on a broader redesign of North Common that could include new walkways, lighting and pergolas.

The Italian-American Society has taken on a fundraising effort to help refurbish the common and flagpole.

The move to beautify North Common follows the major renovation of South Common that is graced with a new flagpole and memorial to late Army Specialist Corey Shea.

"We think North Common can be every bit as nice as South Common and part of the long-term development of that part of town," Ross said.

Gonsalves and his late wife Emma also donated \$100,000 to the town to buy a new ambulance and purchased the speed radar unit that police use in the school zone.