

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Funds For Memorial Growing

COVENTRY — In 10 months, donations have hit the goal for the statewide Vietnam Veterans Memorial planned for the Memorial Green, across from Patriots Park in Coventry, organizer Jean Risley said.

Risley's group has raised \$44,477, enough to make the final payment on the black granite memorial to Connecticut's 612 Vietnam War dead, she notified supporters in a July 4 e-mail.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for late September, with completion expected in October, she said. Organizers are working toward a May 17, 2008, dedication.

"We are in great shape at this time," she said, and donations are still needed for landscaping, benches and walkways at the site.

Risley, whose brother died in the war, spearheaded an effort that included a motorcycle ride, fundraising dinners, T-shirt sales, a construction gift of the foundation and a large donation from a veteran.

The memorial's design calls for four angled granite panels to sit on a gray granite base. The 612 names will be engraved on the panels, adorned with the five armed services emblems and etched versions of the men's and women's memorial statues in Washington.

For more information, go to www.cvvm.org.