

Norfolk Insider

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“Veterans Memorial Park - Honoring Veterans”



It's like putting together a giant puzzle, said Sheila Schukei, human resources manager for the City of Norfolk, when describing the huge concrete slabs that are being set in place at Veterans Memorial Park to form the multipurpose building. The building will house the concession stand, lockers for baseball, football, and soccer teams, public restrooms and a bathhouse for swimmers. It is part of the recreational project

approved by voters in November 2010.

Last week two decorative slabs, each weighing 22,500 pounds, were set in place by a crane into the west wall of the building. On one slab is a three dimensional rendition of a large flag. Norfolk City Administrator Shane Weidner is a former member of the military and suggested the phrase “Freedom Is Not Free” that was precast onto an adjoining slab. Schukei and other city staff members chose a stars and stripes design that encircles the building and is inscribed across the top of each slab. All of the patriotic designs on the building were selected to recognize the contributions of military veterans. The slabs were produced by Enterprise Precast an Omaha specialty concrete company.

After the concrete slab is set into place, it is then carefully matched with the pattern from the slab preceding it. When it is precisely matched and shimmed in place, workers weld it to the adjoining slab. Three to four feet of dirt will eventually be moved in to help anchor the slabs from the bottom and steel roof trusses will help support them from the top. Each slab is a 12-13 inch thick sandwich of concrete, insulation material and more concrete.

“It's a sturdy maintenance free building that will be used nine months of the year,” Schukei said. Typically, soccer games begin in March with activities at the park planned through the football season in November.