

## Cherry Blossom Memorial Park

The Mingo Business Association is in the process of organizing information regarding the Cherry Blossom Memorial Park. The concept of the project is to recognize and honor the educators and staff of Mingo High School and the dedication to its students and community in a memorial to them. It took two days to plant 27 pink weeping cherry blossom trees; 11 trees on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 16 trees on November 21<sup>st</sup>. The trees were planted on the east bank of the former Mingo High School building. One tree was planted in memory of Emma Stevens, a student at Hills Elementary School, who passed away after a lengthy illness. Approximately eighty Hills Elementary School students assisted in planting all the trees. This was coordinated through Ron Sismondo, principal at Hills Elementary and Karen Edwards, Student leader.

Funds for the project came from donations and a grant, Learn and Serve, awarded to Hills Elementary School. Mr. Sismondo recognized the value of this project to the school and community and allotted the entire cost of the trees amounting to \$3228.73 from his grant. TO date the Mingo Business Association has 35 educators and staff members to be honored by giving a donation of \$100 . Alumni and the community have been extremely supportive of this project which will be a beautiful attraction to Mingo Junction. The Mingo Business Association will be promoting the Cherry Blossom Memorial Park and hopes to have a festival in the future.

A concrete wall will be constructed and a Black Granite Plaque will be attached with the name, years of service, and a picture of the honoree lased on it. If they desire, the person or organization who donated the \$100 for a particular person will have their name posted under the honoree. The wall will be constructed below the trees as you drive up St. Clair Street. It will be approximately 24 feet wide by 7 feet tall and 2 feet deep, the black granite stone is 3/8" thick and 12" by 12" for each honoree. The granite was chosen because it will not fade. The cost of the stones is \$100 and includes the lasing, holes drilled and brass mounting pins. A walkway to the wall is also planned and will use 4"by 8" pavers. The pavers will have the donors name engraved for a donation of a \$30. This will also help pay for the total cost of the project.

At the present time biographies are being prepared for those deceased, and living honorees are being asked to prepare their own. Those assisting with the biographies are Martha Sisler, Nancy Kenny, Karen Edwards, and Michele Fabbro.

Plans are underway to have a ceremony at Mingo High School gymnasium, presently Indian Creek Junior High. On August 2, 2008 at 9:00 am and will include a brief history of the High School and feature biographies and photos of the honorees. Everyone is invited to attend this occasion. We anticipate many alumni to pay tribute to their favorite honoree. The program will be in memorable and a celebration of 100 years of education At Mingo High School.

If anyone is interested in recognizing an educator or staff person, please contact Jim Freiling of the Mingo Business Association, email address: [jfreiling@comcast.net](mailto:jfreiling@comcast.net) or phone: (740) 317-1963