

Activists creating memorial in Easton

BY EDWARD SIEGER
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EASTON | Heidi Markow has worked tirelessly to educate the public and raise awareness about domestic abuse.

And soon the city will feature a living monument to domestic violence's countless victims.

Markow and her husband, Iggy, outlined for city council Wednesday plans to create a memorial garden at the site of the "Welcome to Easton" sign on Route 22.

The Beginning Over Foundation Memorial Garden will feature a 6-foot angel statue situated within a domestic

abuse awareness ribbon fashioned out of purple flowers. A seating area surrounded by plantings will be situated at the park's opposite end with other benches and walkway in between.

Heidi Markow of Williams Township started the foundation after her sister, Robin Shaffer, was murdered June 2005 in Quakertown by her estranged and abusive husband. The garden will include memorial plaques for Shaffer and Michele Emig, the Bethlehem woman who was shot and killed in April by her abusive husband.

The Markows said everything but the commemorative

plaques has been donated and that work should begin within two weeks and take about two days. The foundation scheduled a dedication for 6 p.m. Sept. 30, a day before the start of domestic abuse awareness month.

Spotlights on the angel will glow purple in October, before switching to white for the remainder of the year.

Once the memorial is complete, Markow believes Easton will host the state's and possibly country's first memorial to abuse victims.

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