



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2020

### City of Wheeling and Wheeling Park Commission Dedicate New 11<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza

**WHEELING, W.Va.** – A new green space complete with dynamic decorative lighting, beautiful flowering trees, shrubs, granite seating and a nod to local history makes up the new 11<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza between Main and Market Streets in downtown Wheeling. The City of Wheeling and the Wheeling Park Commission dedicated the space Wednesday morning.

The project was made possible through a gift from the late James Hunkler, who bequeathed funds to the Commission for a new public green space in his hometown. The gift includes a permanent endowment to maintain the space in perpetuity.

“Strengthening the Wheeling Park Commission’s partnership with the City of Wheeling on the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza has been a great opportunity. Mr. Hunkler’s generosity highlights the importance of green spaces in the planning and revitalization of Wheeling’s downtown and the entire community,” said David Lindelow, Wheeling Park Commission President and CEO.

Mayor Glenn Elliott said the green space will certainly enhance the downtown and will nicely compliment the City’s upcoming Streetscape Project.

“The City of Wheeling is pleased to partner with the Wheeling Park Commission for this project. We are very appreciative of Mr. Hunkler’s gift. His generosity allowed us to turn an awkward thoroughfare into a highly functional pedestrian plaza with a nod to our history,” he said, noting the City’s streetscape beautification project will inlay footprints across Main Street tracing Betty Zane’s heroic run for ammunition during the siege of Fort Henry in 1782.

Landscape Architect Gabe Hays, of the Wallace Plancher Group, designed the new park with Savage Construction serving as the General Contractor.

--more--

---

**MICHELE REJONIS**

Email: mrejonis@wheelingwv.gov

Cell: 304.639.7364



Hunkler, a native of Wheeling, lived and worked in Columbus, Ohio. A successful writer and editor, he was employed by Battelle Memorial Institute for more than 40 years serving in a wide range of public and community relations positions. A recipient of many journalism awards, Hunkler graduated from West Virginia University's Reed College of Media with high honors in 1950. A thoughtful and generous community leader, Hunkler served on many boards that focused on improving lives physically, intellectually and spiritually.

--30--