

Chart restores community's art tower

Chart Industries in New Prague recently participated in a different project, one the company was glad to help with.

Area residents who drive by Chart Industries' campus on the northwest side of New Prague will always see the interesting white tanks the business manufactures for storage and distribution of cryogenic gases like oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide to name a few. This year Chart Industries had the opportunity to take on a little different type of project, one the business said had crews really excited. This summer, the city of New Prague came to Chart Industries with a special community project and the business eagerly embraced it.

Crews at Chart Industries were asked to repair "Towering to Our Future," which was located in New Prague's Philipps Park near the intersection of Main Street and Highway 21. The frame of the tower, covered with metal relief sculptures, was in significant need of replacing due to weathering and rust

issues. This historical and beautiful artifact was created by New Prague artist, Kiersten Dahl-Shetka, and highlights the spirit of the community's Czech heritage. Dahl-Shetka worked on the tower for several years and had people of all ages involved.

With the expertise of Chart Industries' manufacturing engineers, welders and machinists, a team was designated to restore the tower. Through collaboration with Dahl-Shetka, the team managed the project by utilizing its stainless-steel materials, specially machined a couple of small parts, skillfully welded the frame and finished with premier paint for durability and longevity. After about 40 volunteered hours of teamwork, the structure was resurrected.

Chart appreciates the time volunteered and excellent workmanship by its employees: Joe Flicek (machinist), Bill Lange (welder), Tony Willis (welder), Tyler Smisek, Aaron Simon (coordinator) and Andrew Maruska (project leader).



Submitted photo

Chart Industries in New Prague recently restored the tower for "Towering to Our Future," a piece that highlighted the community's Czech heritage.

