

## Fountain at R.A. Long Park will be part of Koelsch family legacy



DECEMBER 08, 2014 10:30 PM • BY [BROOKS JOHNSON](#)

The Koelsch family is the donor behind a planned \$75,000 fountain in R.A. Long Park, the green space in the Civic Center dedicated to Longview's founder.

The fountain design will be in line with the architecture and colors of the historic buildings that surround the park, according to a city press release issued Monday. The centrally located fountain will be lighted at night and operational from April to October. The project is expected to be completed this summer.

Aaron Koelsch is making the donation in honor of his late father Emmett Koelsch, who founded Koelsch Senior Communities in 1958 in Kelso. Koelsch Senior Communities now has facilities in seven states. Locally, it owns Canterbury Park, Canterbury Inn, Canterbury Gardens and the Delaware Plaza in Longview.

According to a donation agreement with the city, the fountain will include two granite plaques that read: "This fountain is dedicated to the memory of Emmett Koelsch, a Longview citizen for 73 of his 89 years, who founded Koelsch Senior Communities in 1958. Emmett was a dedicated father, WWII veteran, fervent patriot and most importantly a man of God."

Longview City Council voted to approve the fountain design during its Nov. 20 meeting following a lengthy debate over the placement of the park's R.A. Long bust — which will be moved from the center of the park to the library steps.

Other upgrades that will accompany the fountain include new lamps and benches and ADA ramps at the plaza where the fountain will be.