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City seeks grant for tree planting

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

NEWPORT - The west end of Newport may be getting some changes. The city has applied for a \$2,500 grant to help purchase several trees to be planted there.

"Trees are a significant part of the appeal of Newport for which the benefits are often overlooked. Our intent is to spur interest among our property owners in this area of the city where trees are more the exception than the rule," said the city's Interdepartmental Enforcement Team Coordinator Doug Roell.

"The residents are wonderful and this section of town has many things to offer. We are just trying to do our part and help by greening up the area," said Roell.

ADVERTISEMENT The grant was applied for through the Campbell County Conservation District and will require a dollar-for-dollar match from the city. The city will also plant the trees, remove sidewalk where needed and water the trees for three years.

"We would like to concentrate our efforts so as to make the biggest impact. Currently there are several areas of the west end where construction is under way," said Roell.

The city will be working with the Campbell County Extension Office.

"Last year we planted approximately 60 trees with some grant monies and city funds. We worked with the county extension agent to introduce different textures and fall colors and to add interest to the plantings. Some of these plantings were on York Street, portions of Fourth and Fifth Street and Saratoga Street where we had over the years lost several trees," said Roell. Several of the new trees were replacements for trees lost during construction.

The city has also helped several property owners who wanted trees planted adjacent to their properties or along right-of-ways. "Newport is continually looking for ways to enhance and beautify our city," said Roell.

Newport should learn if its application was approved in the spring and planting will begin shortly thereafter. "We are hopeful our application is chosen to be funded so we can once again spark interest in the value of trees in an urban setting such as Newport," said Roell.

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