

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Completed Sculpture Garden in Graham*

## **Community collaboration creates a 'sculpture garden' in Graham**

**GRAHAM, NC** (February 4, 2014) – If you drive down S. Main St. in Graham you will see the new beautification efforts around the Graham Public Library, Alamance County Arts Council building, and the Children's Museum of Alamance County. Frankie Maness, City Manager of the City of Graham describes the newly finished landscaping as "the installation of what I call a 'campus connector' between the Arts Council, Graham Library and the Children's Museum. The Arts Council refers to this area as a 'sculpture garden'. This project is a joint effort between the Arts Council, the City, and New Leaf Society with further cooperation from the Children's Museum of Alamance County and the Library." As Maness stated, the Sculpture Garden combined the strengths of the City of Graham, Alamance County Arts Council, and New Leaf Society to create a project that enhances and connects the campus between the three buildings.

Each partner contributed to the project. The City of Graham provided leadership, coordination, and man-power. They oversaw installation and will do all the annual maintenance. According to Maness "The City of Graham, owner of the property, currently provides maintenance and will provide for any perpetual maintenance. We have existing agreements where we maintain the grounds for the Library, Arts Council, Fallen Hero's Memorial, and the Children's Museum; therefore, annual appropriations for maintenance are in place."

Alamance County Arts Council contributed the vision for the Sculpture Garden, public art effort, and connectivity of the sites. Executive Director of Alamance County Arts Council Cary Worthy states: "We are pleased and appreciative to have completed the first phase of this extensive project with assistance from the New Leaf Society. Together with New Leaf and the City of Graham, the Alamance Arts Council looks forward to creating a public space that will be a 'living' model for collaborative efforts of this kind."

New Leaf Society and private donations from New Leaf Society members provided funding and landscaping assistance. Living Landscapes of Graham helped with the design. Rett Davis, President of New Leaf Society, commented on New Leaf Society's goal for community enhancements and partnerships as it relates to this project: "The collaboration between all of these organizations created a beautiful project. It is in accordance with New Leaf's mission to provide low-maintenance, high-impact landscaping for city green spaces. We hope for other projects and partnerships with the City of Graham and the Arts Council. The leadership and vision behind this project is to be commended."



*Sculpture Garden in Graham during installation*

Additionally, the Sculpture Garden includes a fountain gifted to the City of Graham from the Sister Cities organization. Surrounding the fountain and existing sculptures are knockout roses, confederate jasmine, gardenias, yaupon hollies, daruma loropetalum, crapemyrtles, muhly grass, and caress mahonia. The plan also included the incorporation of sidewalks to connect the buildings into a campus and the installations of electrical and water lines.

All organizations involved agreed with Maness in his statement of the new Sculpture Garden: "We would like to make this an attractive centerpiece for the many folks who visit the Library, Children's Museum, and Arts Council on a daily basis."

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### **About New Leaf Society**

New Leaf Society is a donor-funded, non-profit organization focused on enhancing the quality of life in Alamance County through unique beautification projects in high-visibility areas. To learn more about their mission and accomplishments, visit their website [www.newleafsociety.org](http://www.newleafsociety.org).