

# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### New Leaf Society Completes Beautification Project in Historic District

BURLINGTON, NC -- December 22, 2011 – New Leaf Society (New Leaf) announces completion of the Fountain Place beautification project in the Main City Historic District of Burlington. Accomplished in cooperation with the City of Burlington, the Historic Preservation Commission and the city planning board, the extensive landscaping project protects the historical significance and integrity of the street while replacing deteriorating trees, shrubs and flowers.

New plantings along Fountain Place were chosen to match the function and aesthetic of the space. To line the street, New Leaf chose Japanese Zelkova, a tree with an upright growth habit that does not obstruct traffic flow. Diseased Sycamores have been removed and new, 8-10 foot tall Sycamores will be planted below the fountain, where there is ample ground for growth. Knock-out roses will add color to new shrub beds, and all trees and beds will be newly mulched.

Landscape architect and former historic district resident Bing Smedberg created the plans for the space pro bono, and Gilmore Plant and Bulb, from Liberty, won the bid to redo all flower and shrub beds.

New Leaf has also established a long-term maintenance strategy for the space to ensure its sustainability. “We always go in to a project with a commitment from a partner to maintain the space,” says Rett Davis, New Leaf President. “In this case, New Leaf will maintain the space for two years, including watering and mulching. After new plants and trees are established, New Leaf will turn the project over to the city as a gift.”

Project sites are chosen based on several criteria, including cost, ease, visibility, maintenance level, neighborhood impact, economic urgency and public safety. According to Davis, the Fountain Place green spaces fit the criteria perfectly. “Fountain

Place is really a gateway to downtown Burlington and a focal point for the entire historic district,” notes Davis. “It’s a showcase for Alamance County, and New Leaf saw that it had fallen into disrepair.”

For New Leaf, the finished Fountain Place project captures the vision of a better quality of life and further economic prosperity for Burlington, Mebane and all of Alamance County. A year in the works, from inception to first planting, the project passed through many concerned hands in an effort to maintain historical standards and to prevent inconvenience to residents and traffic flow. The final result is a landscape that, according to Davis, “creates pride in this community gem.”

Fountain Place resident Leslie Peavy loves the results of New Leaf’s hard work. “We are a neighborhood that is rich in history. Many of the homeowners know the history of their homes and the neighborhood and believe strongly that this heritage needs to be preserved,” observes Peavy. “We love what New Leaf is doing to maintain the beauty of this space, and we were so excited when we heard that New Leaf was considering us for a project. We trust Rett Davis and New Leaf, and we are thrilled to benefit from their care and expertise.”

In addition to the recent completion of the Fountain Place project, New Leaf has several other projects in the works, including landscaping along the Mebane Street island and enhancements at Grand Oaks Boulevard. Living Landscapes, from Graham, will begin those projects in the next month or two.

Another benefit of New Leaf’s beautification model is that all of the funds for their projects come from private members and donors, not from taxpayer dollars. Although the city partners with New Leaf to approve and complete the projects, the city does not have to pay for any of the plantings, re-landscaping, design or initial maintenance. As membership grows, New Leaf’s reach will extend, improving the appearance of Alamance County roads and intersections and enhancing life along the I-40/85 corridor.

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

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