

## **Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New Leaf Society Beautifies Major Burlington Connector**

BURLINGTON, NC (March 14, 2012) -

Beautification efforts along the recently widened Mebane Street connector, from Highway 54 to Huffman Mill Road, have been completed thanks to the initiative of New Leaf Society and private funds from New Leaf Society members and donors.



New trees started popping up along Mebane Street in early 2012, and New Leaf Society officials announced the completion of the project's first phase in mid-February. Living Landscapes of Graham partnered with New Leaf Society to plant the trees.

“We have been waiting a long time to beautify this well-established, centrally located neighborhood. It’s an anchor neighborhood for our city, and the new boulevard NCDOT created with the road widening is a prominent showcase for some elegant trees and blooms,” said New Leaf Society President Rett Davis. “The tree planting is the first phase of a two phase planting. Shrubs, grasses and flowers will come later this year.”

In accordance with New Leaf’s mission to provide low-maintenance, high-impact landscaping for city green spaces, the plantings along Mebane Street correspond with the coherent “plant palette” established in other projects, such as the work along Fountain Place, University Drive and Grand Oaks Boulevard. The Mebane Street plant list includes holly, redbud, crape myrtle, magnolia, Chinese pistache, ‘Nuttall’ oak and ‘Shoals Creek’ vitex.

Tom Flood, co-chair of the technical advisory committee for New Leaf Society, landscape designer and Director of Landscaping for Elon University, designs all plans around tree size and driver safety. Said Flood, “New Leaf ensures all trees are selected, spaced and planted according to their projected size at full maturity, avoiding root damage to surrounding pavement, driving visibility hazards and any obstructive growth habits.”

Lifelong Mebane Street resident Ruth Ann Phillips is thrilled with the spring-like transformation along the primary route in and out of her neighborhood. “I think the completed project is just

beautiful.” said Phillips. “When the trees start blooming, it’s going to make the new median that much more lovely. I’m so happy with the results.”

Nancy Rich, another long-time Mebane Street resident, summarized the impact of the work: “You can’t help but notice it. It’s going to be pretty in the spring, and it’s going to add so much to the newly widened road.”

According to Janice Burgess, Secretary of New Leaf Society’s Board of Directors, the budget for this phase of the project was \$22,000. New Leaf uses no taxpayer funds and requests no money from the city for their projects. They depend solely on private donor funds.

New Leaf Society also does no street construction. Instead, New Leaf works in partnership with NCDOT and local municipalities to landscape and enhance public spaces.

New Leaf Society is a 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)).