

## **Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 23, 2012**

Contact:

Kelly May

New Leaf Society

P.O. Box 4083

Burlington, NC 27215

Phone: (336) 586-1626

Email: [kmay@newleafsociety.com](mailto:kmay@newleafsociety.com)

Website: [www.newleafsociety.org](http://www.newleafsociety.org)

### **New Leaf Society ramps up fall 2012 projects across Alamance County**

BURLINGTON, NC (October 23, 2012) - With \$225,000.00 already dedicated to completed, current and upcoming projects for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, New Leaf Society continues to transform Alamance County's green spaces and streetscapes. Fall 2012 community improvement initiatives include landscaping at Eva Barker Park, the Burlington-Alamance Regional Airport and along Edgewood Avenue's islands near Turrentine Middle School.

Following a bid process of qualified providers, Living Landscapes of Graham was selected to serve as landscaping vendor for these projects.

#### **Eva Barker Park**

Burlington, N.C.'s Eva Barker Park has a long history. Once the center of a bustling mill community, the park had fallen into disrepair over the years. Thanks to the initiative of the Burlington Police Department and Burlington Parks and Recreation, as well as their partnership with New Leaf Society, this once-forgotten park is now a vital, safe, beautiful place for children and families.

"We look for chances to preserve and revive historically important sites," said New Leaf Society President Rett Davis. "We're thrilled to have the opportunity to focus on a piece of property like Eva Barker Park that has had such an impact on Burlington's history."

Work at Eva Barker Park included \$6,500.00 in new trees and low-level plantings around the park's entrance on North Main Street. Deep watermelon-red 'Arapaho' crape myrtles add long-lasting summer color to the entrance. The hardy Southern landscape staple will also be fast-growing and easy to maintain.

Nuttall oak trees add height and maturity to the landscape. Considered by many to be the finest Southern tree for fall colors, the Nuttall oak is just in time to show its stunning red and gold fall foliage.

Knock Out roses, a New Leaf Society favorite because of its low-maintenance beauty, have been planted around the base of the park sign.

Snow White Indian Hawthorne completed the landscaping. A spring-blooming, low-growing bush, its clusters of delicate white flowers belie its hardiness.

### **Burlington-Alamance Regional Airport**

The Burlington-Alamance Regional Airport along N.C. Highway 62 and North Aviation Drive has long needed a face-lift to its utilitarian entrance. The improvements coincide with the extension and opening of a new 6,400 ft. runway that will turn the airport into a significant entryway to Alamance County.

“The improvements at the Burlington Airport were suggested to us by Mac Williams at the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce,” said New Leaf Society President Rett Davis. “For the most part, the airport is a blank canvas: it’s in a lovely part of the county, but nothing has been done to improve the landscaping around the airport itself. It’s expanding now and is becoming a more important part of our local economy. It was time to do some beautification and embellishment. After all, for many business visitors to the area, it’s their first impression.”

Williams was pleased when New Leaf Society offered to help spruce up this important “front door” to Alamance County. “New Leaf Society contacted us about the possibility of beautification work at the airport,” remarked Williams. “The airport generates significant economic activity on the field, with both landings and take-offs, and brings people to Alamance County, whether for business or pleasure. As such a significant economic engine in our area, we were happy to help open the door for New Leaf Society to improve it.”

New Leaf Society has contributed \$11,500.00 to the project and has partnered with the Burlington Airport to create a beautiful, welcoming entrance for visitors and residents of Alamance County.

Plantings include the winter berry-bearing Robin holly, dark pink ‘Miami’ crape myrtles, ground-covering Liriope, the purple-flowering Russian sage, evergreen cherry laurels, and Knock Out roses.

### **Edgewood Avenue Islands**

As another heavily traveled thoroughfare in Burlington and a gateway to the historic district, Edgewood Avenue is a prime candidate for New Leaf Society’s green thumb.

“New Leaf Society has wanted to do some improvements along Edgewood Avenue because of its visibility in our community, but there is very little public space that lends itself to landscaping,” said Davis. “In front of Brookwood Village and Turrentine Middle School, though, are some concrete islands that have needed repair for a while. We approached the city with a plan to create strips of greenery in these islands using hardy, low-maintenance plantings that could also add a pop of beauty and color to the street.”

New Leaf Society's work along Edgewood Avenue will make this unique, well-traveled neighborhood artery a pleasant corridor for vehicle and foot traffic alike.

The \$19,500.00 project will be funded entirely by New Leaf Society's members and donors. The City of Burlington will prepare the islands for plantings, and New Leaf Society will provide the plant materials and installation. Plantings include 'Biloxi' crape myrtle, Carissa holly, Knock Out roses and Liriope.

### **About New Leaf Society**

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)).