

TREES FOR TOMORROW

Program to replace Quincy's leafy canopy branches out

Organizers say 227 trees already have been planted along Maine and other city streets

By **EDWARD HUSAR**

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While most people this time of year are focused on putting up Christmas trees inside their homes, members of Quincy's Trees for Tomorrow program are already thinking about planting trees outside next spring.

Since early last year the not-for-profit organization has been leading a campaign to encourage more tree planting in Quincy. The response from the public has been overwhelming, with 227 trees already planted along Quincy streets.

"It's been a very popular program," said Anne St. John, one of the organizers.

Trees for Tomorrow was launched with the initial goal of getting about 90 trees planted along Maine Street, between 12th and 24th.

That goal was quickly met when dozens of residents began ordering trees to be planted in front of their homes. Before long, the program was expanded to cover Maine all the way to 30th. On top of that, additional trees have been planted along parts of 16th, 18th and 24th streets, not far from Maine.

Now more trees are planted along 24th Street, from Maine to Aldo Boulevard, and St. John said plans are in the works to launch a tree-planting effort along State from 12th to 24th. "A lot of major trees have been lost in that area," she said.

More areas of town will be targeted in the future.

The initial impetus behind the Trees for Tomorrow program was a desire to restore the thick canopy of towering shade trees that once adorned Maine Street in the early 1900s. Many trees have come down over the years because they died, were damaged in storms or were simply removed — or severely trimmed back

PROGRAM INFORMATION

More information about the Trees for Tomorrow program is available by calling Anne St. John, advisory board chairman, at 223-0055; by calling Lee Lindsay Curtis at 224-3755; or by sending e-mail to treetmrw@adams.net or astjohn1637@adams.net. The all-volunteer group also has a Web site: www.treesfortomorrow-quincy.com/.



— once the branches became entangled in overhead power lines.

St. John said the recent plantings along Maine, and in other nearby locations, are setting the stage for a rejuvenation of the towering canopy. But Trees for Tomorrow also has been a hit in other parts of town where a growing number of tree-loving individuals are taking advantage of the opportunity to buy a good-sized tree and have it planted in their yard, all for one cost.

"We can plant the trees anywhere they want," St. John said. "I'm still getting calls from people. So as long as

people are still interested, we're going to keep going."

Trees for Tomorrow is selling trees for \$275 to \$340 depending on the species and size. St. John said most people so far have requested assorted species of maples.

Bergman Nurseries will plant, fertilize, wrap and mulch any trees purchased from the company as part of the program.

People who buy trees also have an opportunity to memorialize a loved one with a \$50 engraved "memorial stone" that can be affixed to the ground near

the tree. St. John said the stones have been a popular add-on for many people who have ordered trees.

Trees also have been ordered as Christmas gifts, St. John said.

"We've had a number of grandmothers and parents purchase a tree for a child and put their name on the plaque and put it right next to the tree," she said. "The kids just love it, because it's their very own tree and they get to watch it grow."

Trees for Tomorrow has been getting some major recognition. Earlier this year, the program won the top prize at a statewide Tree City USA awards program in Springfield. The campaign subsequently placed second in a national Tree City USA competition.

St. John said a group from Keokuk, Iowa, recently visited Quincy to learn more about the program. "They are going to try to do a similar program up there," she said.