

Planting for the Future

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The landscape of Medina has changed quite a bit in the last few years. The rebuilding of village roads, windstorms, age and disease have all led to the destruction of hundreds of trees throughout the village. Medina has been hoping to obtain Tree City status, which is a designation that opens up doors for municipalities when it comes to receiving funding for different projects throughout the village.



Bank of Castile Branch Manager Marsha Winters and Tree Board Chairman Christopher Busch stand in front of a newly planted Green Vase Zelkova tree on South Main Street. The Bank of Castile became the first sponsor of the Tree Board's Arbor Day tree planting celebration.

Several steps must be taken before obtaining this status.

A group of Cornell University horticulturists recently conducted a survey of every municipal tree. The team recommended that hundreds more be removed due to disease and age.

Some Medina residents aren't willing to just sit back and watch as the landscape of their village is destroyed. In response to the tree removals, a group of community members formed the Village of Medina Municipal Tree Board. The board was formed to encourage community members to get involved in planting trees throughout the village.

"The Tree Board was formed just this last year," board Chairman Christopher Busch said. "The village supported the effort to draft the ordinance and form the board." The ordinance was created to make sure the right tree is planted in the right spot. "Certain trees are extremely drought tolerant, others are not," Busch said.

Busch said although the majority of trees that used to occupy the village were maple, the board wants to promote the planting of different varieties. The board hopes to arrange several tree plantings to coincide with Arbor Day this year, which is April 28. "This year's event hopefully will draw a great deal of attention to the need (for planting)," Busch said.

One local business has jumped on board to assist the board in its efforts. The Bank of Castile on South Main Street has offered to become the first corporate sponsor of the Arbor Day plantings. The bank has donated \$300 to plant an oak tree on Arbor Day this year and every year from now on.

"Chris called and asked us if we would be interested in participating," Bank of Castile Branch Manager Marsha Winters said. "The more we talked, the better it got." Winters added that the bank hopes to contribute to the landscape of the community for many years to come. Busch said they are currently looking for sponsors and donations to help with the Arbor Day celebration.

"They can donate a dollar amount towards future plantings, they can donate toward planting an entire tree," Busch said. "No donation is too small." Anyone interested in becoming involved with the Tree Board's planting initiative can pick up a donation form at the Village Clerk's office or the Bank of Castile.