

Editorial: Trees, glorious trees

Follow Medina's example and plant some in 2010

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It's not too late to make a difference for Earth Day. It will be celebrated Thursday. We suggest you plant a tree, or at least make a commitment to do so this year.

We also suggest you call up your mayor, town supervisor, council representative or county legislator. Don't complain too much about your taxes or garbage pickup. They've heard that before. One thing that may not have been heard: We need more trees in our community.

Many of our local municipalities recently widened and rebuilt roads as part of an overhaul by the state Department of Transportation. Those projects took out many fine trees that helped soften and enhance the landscape. Storms and disease have also hurt the local tree stock.

We need more trees back. One local community, Medina, has put money behind the effort. Many of Medina's trees were sawed down during recent extensive road reconstruction projects. The village has planted about 400 trees the past five years. Medina has twice been declared a "Tree City" by the Arbor Day Foundation for all of its forestry efforts. The village will again celebrate Arbor Day on April 30, highlighting the day by planting more trees.

Medina also has created a municipal Tree Board, passed a tree ordinance that sets standards for tree care and the Village Board has committed at least \$2 per resident in village funds to tree maintenance.

The money and time are well worth it, said Chris Busch, chairman of the Medina Tree Board.

"A neighborhood with trees is more peaceful, more pleasant and more aesthetically pleasing," Busch said during last year's Arbor Day celebration, when about 350 elementary students celebrated a tree-planting on Main Street.

The Tree Board in Medina advises residents on which trees will best fit in with their neighborhood and thrive in certain soils and micro-climates in the community. Trees have other benefits. They improve air quality, help prevent soil erosion and improve the looks of the community.

We urge other communities to follow Medina's example.