

# Arbor Day in the sun



MARK MARONEY/Sun-Gazette

Above, Michael Dincher, a professor of horticulture at the Pennsylvania College of Technology, spreads mulch with his hands after a yellow poplar tree is planted Thursday at Newberry Park. At right, Pennsylvania College of Technology horticulture students Kyle Johnson, 20, of Liverpool, left, and Mikhala Umstead, city, right, plant a yellow poplar and a variety of other trees at Newberry Park Thursday. Some 38 trees were planted in a donation from an area business and part of a state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant.

## Trees planted include yellow poplar, maple

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In short order, those heading to Newberry Park in the city's West End will find respite from the glaring sun beneath a canopy of shade trees, among them flowering tulip, also known as yellow poplar.

"It's fitting with Poplar Street right there," said Michael Dincher, a professor of horticulture at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. He oversaw more than dozen students hauling, lifting, dropping, digging and mulching into place at least 38 shade trees Thursday throughout the park.

It's tree planting time in the city, with the introduction of trees that will have a

chance to grace the landscape and provide shade for another generation.

A second round of tree plantings is scheduled for next Friday's Arbor Day ceremony at Brandon Park, according to Sally Wiegand, chair of the city's Brandon Park and Shade Tree commission.

Kyle Johnson, 20, of Liverpool, and Mikhala Umstead, of the city, were among the horticulture students, planting trees and spreading mulch, clean and fresh kind that smelled of dirt mixing in the mid-April breezes as students waited anxiously to do the labor.

"Right here," Dincher said as the students dropped down yellow poplar trees. The trees' buds will



### ▶ IF YOU GO

- ▶ **WHAT:** City Arbor Day Ceremony
- ▶ **WHEN:** 1 p.m. April 25
- ▶ **WHERE:** Dr. Kenneth Cooper Bandshell

bloom soon, providing plenty of shade for those walking and playing at the park. Sugar maple trees surround the playground and Armstrong maple trees grow elsewhere.

"They'll sprout up straight so they won't interfere with wires," Dincher said of the trees.

Half of the trees were donated by Dincher and Dincher, a local tree surgeon company that started in the garage of a house next to the park, Dincher said. The others were paid for through a state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant managed through the Penn State Extension, Dincher said.

Mayor Gabriel J. Campana said the city has plans to invest \$75,000 in the park, including constructing a walking path and adding lights. It once was a park where police frequently were called to stop drug deals, he said.

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# Trees planted include yellow poplar

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Becky Lundy, of the city recreation commission, attended the plantings. The neighbor of the park said she was glad to see the trees. Campana said the money to pay for the park improvements will be coming from savings the city incurred from joining a health care consortium.

The trees are expected to beautify the park, nestled in the neighborhood near Linn Street and home of the Newberry Lions and Lioness clubs. The Newberry Community Partnership also is supportive of the additional trees, Campana said.

Dincher said the city needs to think about long-

term maintenance. The trees should be pruned, at least every three years, and mulched annually, he said.

As for next week's tree-related ceremony, the Arbor Day activities kick-off at 1 p.m. Friday at the Dr. Kenneth Cooper Bandshell, Wiegand said.

Wiegand said she always relishes the chance to introduce the guests at the ceremony. Entertainment will be provided by the fifth and sixth grade jazz band from Curtin Intermediate School.

The city Streets and Parks Department is expected to assist individuals and families with planting of trees in memory of loved ones, Wiegand said.

In addition, the commission is planning a 100th

anniversary of the bandshell at Brandon Park. The ceremony is scheduled for 6 p.m. June 1, with a rain date of 6 p.m. June 8, Wiegand said.

Several guests are expected to make appearances, including a possible visit from Cooper's daughter, she said.

Kuhn's Classic Memories, a horse and buggy company from Montoursville, which gave a brief presentation to the commission at a meeting Wednesday, is planning to bring its riders to the 100th anniversary of the bandshell.

The commission consists of Wiegand, chair; Jeff Reeder, co-chair; Richard James, Dave Myers, Frank Pugliese, Thad Meckley and Bill McConnell.