



## **WOODSTOCK'S SOUTH MAIN STREET TO GET A "TREE LIFT"**

Over the next month, over 46 new street trees will be planted along Woodstock's Main Street running from Benchoff Drive to Lora Drive. The project is a partnership effort involving the Town of Woodstock, Woodstock Tree Board, and Woodstock Enhancement Committee. The Town has received a second "Virginia Trees for Clean Water" grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry to cover much of the cost for acquiring the trees and related expenses. This follows the tree planting project that was done on North Main Street last fall, using additional funds from the first grant.

The project has already begun with a detailed assessment of the existing trees planted along South Main Street, considering their species, age, condition and specific site constraints (such as those severely pruned trees under the utility lines). Some trees have been identified for removal. The "walkabout" assessment that occurred on April 16 includes new and existing planting sites and recommended individual tree species for each site. The planting project has been reviewed and approved by Virginia Department of Transportation. Dominion Power has agreed to assist in the removal of any trees on May 13, 14, & 15. Woodstock's Public Works staff will assist in removals and in establishing new planting spaces. In addition, property owners who are adjacent to the tree planting and removal sites have been notified.

The Woodstock Town Council previously approved a Tree Canopy Implementation Plan that calls for increasing Woodstock's overall tree canopy. The Plan calls for an 8% increase over the next 20 years. Numerous scientific studies have documented the value of trees in urban areas in helping with stormwater management, temperature modification, energy savings, and general enhancement. The Woodstock Tree Board and Town staff have already completed several action items called for in the Plan.

The Woodstock Tree Board developed a checklist of trees suitable for our climate and a variety of site conditions, such as height and size limitations of planting sites. All new plantings on public property will be driven by the "right tree, right place" concept. There will be a variety of tree species used in the planting project to help diversify the Town's trees. They have been chosen for their hardiness, appropriate size and height, foliage, and aesthetic considerations. Tree Board and Enhancement Committee members will be participating in the planting project along with Town staff.

Information about the Woodstock Tree Board, the Tree Canopy Guide, and the Recommended Checklist of Suitable Trees may be found on the Town's website at [www.townofwoodstockva.gov/treeboard](http://www.townofwoodstockva.gov/treeboard). For more information about the project, please contact Angela Clem, Assistant Town Planner, [angela.clem@townofwoodstockva.gov](mailto:angela.clem@townofwoodstockva.gov) or 540.459.3621.