

# Tree warden expands plan to green up town

## Offers shady deal to willing homeowners

By Gordon B. Seavey

Eagle correspondent

Following a modest start three months ago, Tree Warden Kenneth Greeno plans to expand the program of planting shade trees at crucial points in Westford within the next three weeks. Autumn, he says, is an ideal time for this, but the time for proper planting before cold weather sets in is running out.

Greeno is anxious to receive suggestions for suitable locations which would benefit the greatest number of people. He is looking for spots where some ancient tree had been removed or a location where an ornamental shade tree would benefit the area. He is asking that suggestions be phoned to the selectmen's office at town hall, at 692-5501. Greeno plans to inspect all proposed locations suggested.

The number of new plantings will be controlled by the department's limited

budget. The cost of each planting is well over \$100.

It is common knowledge that trees close to highways are expected to salt damage and also remain a target for snow plows and wayward autos. Crowded along the edge of highways, trees receive little nourishment. With this in mind, Greeno will seek permission from some homeowners to set new trees, without cost, on their property near the street.

In this instance, Greeno feels the homeowner will take pride in the new addition and will keep it watered, and the roots will have more favorable soil from which to draw nutrients.

The variety selected will be chosen by Greeno, a noted arborist with a business in Concord. Some varieties, such as the little leaf linden and pin oak, are quite tolerant to winter salts from the highways.

Ken Greeno, a Westford resident, takes

his post as tree warden seriously. A town official has commented that his salary is a pittance. He realizes that little activity in this department over past years is now showing up. He has the determination (and name) to do his part as a good citizen to "Keep Westford Green."

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Charles Laughton of Laughton's Garden Center has repeated his offer of donating nursery stock at historical sites. This business has over 50 acres of stock growing in two Westford locations.

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Tree planting for shade and beauty is not new to the town. It was in 1871 that the Ornamental Tree Association was formed and immediately went to work. Principal William E. Frost of Westford Academy was a leader. Because the group could not draw on a wide variety of stock from a nursery such as Laughton's, members went to the woods and fields. Here they dug saplings of red maple, ash and white pine to double ring the Common and along various streets. It is quite possible that one or two of these venerable trees still stand. But some are in deplorable condition.

These early naturalists were careful not to fill the center of the Common with plantings, for this area was the muster field for the Colonial troops and also playground for Academy students.