WHY PLANT TREES?

Trees benefit us in a number of ways:

-- Environmental: Trees produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, lessening the "greenhouse effect". Trees reduce soil erosion and create wind and sun blocks.

-- Economic: Trees increase property values, create jobs in the forestry industry, and help reduce energy needs and noise impacts.

-- Social: Trees are therapeutic and help create a sense of community and place.

TREE MAINTENANCE TIPS:

-- Plant a tree at the same depth as it was grown in the nursery
-- Pack soil firmly around roots
-- Water thoroughly when planting and weekly during the first growing season
-- Mulch to a depth of 3 inches
-- Fertilize only when necessary
-- Trim branches so you don’t damage the branch collar
-- Trim no more than one-third of the crown of a tree
-- Never top a tree!

A minimal amount of care goes a long way to enhancing the health of a tree. Trees need care and maintenance. Don’t let a tree become a hazard.

TREES SELECTION FOR BEL AIR AREA

Major/Shade

Tall -- Ash (Green, White), Maple (Red, Sugar, Silver), Oak (White, Red, Pin), Sweet Gum, Sycamore
Medium -- Honeylocust, Birch, Hornbeam
Low -- Maple (Amur, Japanese, Trident)

Ornamental/Flowering

Tall -- Linden
Medium -- Goldenrain, Cherry
Low -- Crabapple, Dogwood, Yellowwood

Evergreen

Tall -- White Pine, Norway Spruce
Medium -- American Holly, Blue Spruce, Eastern Hemlock
Low -- Arborvitae, Eastern Red Cedar, Japanese Black Pine

(Source: Tree City USA Bulletin)

BEFORE PLANTING CONSIDER:

Summer:
Deciduous trees to the east and southeast sides of your home to provide shade and reduce cooling costs.

Fall/Spring:
Flowering ornamental trees and brightly colored shade trees to enhance the beauty of your home.

Winter:
Evergreens along the north and west sides of your home to provide windbreaks and reduce energy consumption.

Always keep in mind the size of the tree at maturity when selecting a planting site.