Five years, 93 replacement trees

As people gather for Thursday's Fourth of July Parade, they will find 16 newly planted trees on High Street and nearby Pottstown thoroughfares, replacing trees that died. Some of the new trees are pictured below.

In the last five years, 93 such replacement trees have been planted by a non-profit group, Trees Inc., first established in 1984 to plant and maintain street trees in the borough.

In February Pottstown Council donated $30,000 to Trees Inc. from a fund established to collect money from developers who would rather pay for trees elsewhere than plant the number of trees required by Pottstown's land development ordinance.

This spring's planting downtown cost $14,627, including removing dead trees, grinding out stumps, and trimming deadwood from otherwise healthy trees.

The remainder of the borough money will be used next spring to protect about 140 ash trees from emerald ash borer. The trees must be treated every three years or they will die.

Commentary by Thomas Hylton