

Trustees Decide to Do “Something Big” with New \$500,000 Business Fund

Since beauty is in the eye of the beholder, your Board of Trustees is sponsoring a \$500,000 neighborhood beauty contest of sorts. This fall, the Township is offering **residents the chance to vote for one of two beautification projects they want for their neighborhood.**

The Trustees decided to give the first-year revenues from a new funding source to the neighborhoods by doing something big that the Township could not have afforded before this year. The new enhancement program, dubbed “NED” for Neighborhood Economic Development, is being offered to all of Columbia’s 15 neighborhood areas.

NED will be entirely paid for out of Columbia’s new revenue sharing agreement with its two successful medical marijuana dispensaries in the Ridge Rd. & Highland Ave. district.

“We’re turning medical marijuana into gold,” says Trustee President David Kubicki. “Or actually into street trees and architectural street signs across our entire community.”

Columbia is the only community in Hamilton County – and possibly Ohio - with this valuable revenue sharing economic development tool. Columbia will invest any future year revenues from the dispensaries to address other important needs in the Township.

And that, too, is a thing of beauty.

“So many of our residents and businesses do such a wonderful job keeping their properties looking great that we were inspired to enhance the beauty of the entire Township,” said Susan Hughes, Columbia Township Trustee.

• **Designer Street Signs:** There’s no reason why the trusty ol’ plain street sign can’t be attractive while standing there doing its thing. Imagine good-looking, designer-styled poles with a handsome frame around the sign and decorative finial on top.



• **Neighborhood Street Trees:** It’s hard to beat the stately beauty of trees, and studies prove that house values are higher on streets lined with trees. There’s just something idyllic and soothing about tree-lined streets that make them even more enjoyable to drive, walk—and live—on.

The majority of votes in each neighborhood will determine which of these beautification projects the Township will install.

For neighborhoods that choose designer street signs, Columbia will contract for the sign upgrades.

For neighborhoods that choose street trees, a professional arborist will meet with resident groups in each neighborhood to coordinate the best type of tree, locations and timing.