

6-13-13

Moving toward a more beautiful Fairview

Motorists will soon see landscaping at city's entrance

By WILL BUSS
News-Democrat

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS — A new \$864,000 beautification project is getting underway where major roads lead into town.

Trees, shrubs and grasses will be planted at the interchange at Interstate 64 and Illinois 159 and is

expected to be finished by July 2014. Mayor Gail Mitchell first proposed the initiative and the project, which has been on the books for the past five years.

"It took five years to do, but we're here," Mitchell said Wednesday. "It's a really good project."

The grant money was appropriated at that time but just recent-

ly was made available, said Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Belleville. He said the new landscaping will enhance the entrance into the city.

"It's the first impression on the community," Hoffman said. "This is going to be something positive for Fairview Heights."

As chairman of the Fairview

Heights Beautification Committee, Patrick

McCarthy is pleased to see the project soon will come to fruition. The committee, which was founded three years ago, leads a number of volunteer cleanup events, including a monthly cleanup one Saturday morning a month.

"The first thing we recognized was the high amount of litter and trash. Again, that makes that first impression for your city," McCarthy said. "So this is going to be a huge difference regionally. I don't look at it as part of the city; it's the benefit of Collinsville, Fairview Heights, Swansea and for that matter, adjacent to Caseyville and O'Fallon. Everybody at large benefits from a major interchange beautification. The success of the area is enhanced by what you see."