

Urban green space on Main Street

By **HALEY SALITROS**
staff writer

The project that has been stopping traffic on Main Street is finally complete.

Patrick Carie, Al Baldwin and workers from Landscapes by Dallas Foster, 3729 Camp Arthur Road, have been toiling away at 915 Main St. to create something unique: An urban green space.

In October, Carie purchased the property at 913 Main St. from Baldwin, and with it came a dilapidated house at 915 Main St.

The home at 915 Main St. was beyond restoration, but the two came up with a plan to tear it down and put back something better.

"We cleaned the weeds out of the garden," said Baldwin, owner of Beard's Hardware next door and the Democratic Party nominee for mayor.

"There's not enough green space on Main," said Carie, "We've got a beautiful city and we should capitalize on this."

But throwing together a garden



Staff photo by Gayle R. Robbins

Neighbors Pat Carie and Al Baldwin have teamed up to add an urban garden on Main Street

wasn't as easy as it sounded. The plan took months to put together because Carie and Baldwin had a specific idea in mind that it had to fit in with Vincennes' historic architecture.

"We wanted to give the ambiance of a vintage historical look," said Carie, who emphasized the importance of keeping of

the town's historical appeal, even though they aren't in the historic district.

Bill Tennis of Landscapes by Dallas Foster was the designer and production supervisor for the project. He said making sure the space met the vintage historical look was an obstacle.

Great care was taken in design-

ing the winding center path and choosing the right stones for it, as well as retucking the limestone retaining wall, finding the perfect fence and light fixtures.

"This has been one of my favorite projects," said Tennis.

Three days were spent choosing the plants to go into the green space and the finished product features a tulip poplar tree as well as oak and maple trees.

Butterfly bushes, hollies, hydrangea, lilies, day lilies, roses and a variety of perennials adorn the space and extend to Carie's property to connect the two.

Schenk Sod Farm, Old U.S. 41, provided the fescue sod for the properties.

Carie is already thinking about how to decorate the space for Christmas so that people passing by for the Parade of Lights can enjoy it.

"This is about raising the bar and taking pride in your community," said Carie, "Yes, this was expensive but it was worth it. The whole neighborhood can benefit from something like this."