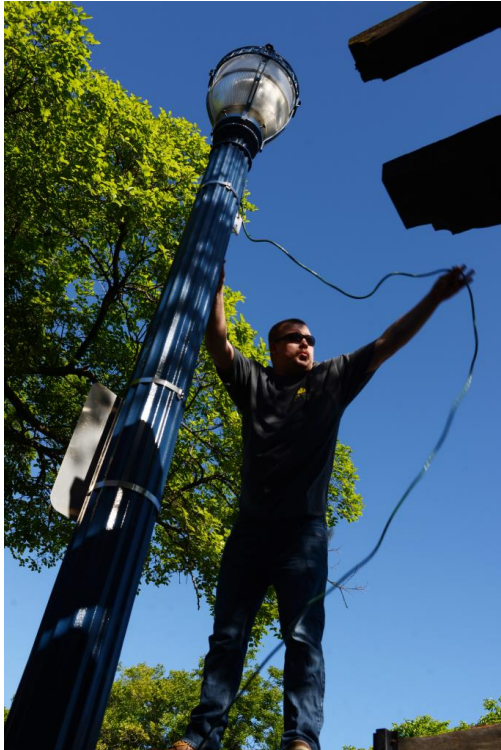


# Project begins to brighten downtown Fairfield

By [Susan Hiland From page A3](#) | Daily Republic | March 28, 2015



Justin Nunes of Parkway Community Church's City Hope program installs lights in downtown Fairfield, Friday. Volunteers installed year-round lights to help improve the downtown district. (Aaron Rosenblatt/Daily Republic)

FAIRFIELD — The downtown will be more illuminating in the evenings with the completion of the Fairfield Main Street Association's latest project.

The downtown along Texas Street from Jefferson Street to Pennsylvania Avenue will have new lights strung among the trees on the street that will permanently shine in the evenings for the downtown area.

"We are trying to brighten and make it look pretty," Margaret Manzo, executive director of Fairfield Main Street Association, said.

Manzo said the downtown trees years ago held lights in them year round but over time they stopped working and eventually they were all removed.

AG Spanos Companies donated \$2,500 for the Fairfield Main Street Association to purchase 200 sets of lights, which will go into about 40 of the trees downtown.

“It won’t be in every tree because they need to have an electrical source so they have to be close to the lamp posts,” Manzo said.

She noted that Jefferson Street already has lights and has been illuminated for a while, which actually became the prompt for the project.

“Once business owners saw the street lit at night they started calling and asking why theirs weren’t done,” she said.

To maintain the lights in the trees, the owners of the shops are asked for a small donation to help out.

“It will be something like \$50. We plan to make this an ongoing fundraising campaign to keep them maintained,” Manzo said.

Justin Nunes helped coordinate about four members of the Parkway Community Church who volunteered Friday to help string the lights on the trees.

The owner of Cigar and Vape was happy to see the improvements in front of his shop.

“When I first moved here and went downtown at night I didn’t like it, because it felt dead to me,” Ayman Odeh said.

But since opening his shop, he doesn’t see it the same way.

“It will look nice,” he said. “Make it brighter. It might also help with safety.”

He had no problem with donating to help with the upkeep of the lights.

“Whatever donation you need, I will help,” he said.

That’s exactly the response that Manzo wants to hear – over and over again.

“We are hoping that the owners will adopt the trees in front of their stores and watch out for them,” Manzo said.

Not all the lights were hung Friday. The project will continue into next week, ending at Pennsylvania Avenue by the Daily Republic.

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