

Retired educator donates trees to middle school



**By Veronica J. Bradley
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A career educator and 1955 graduate of W.A. Pattillo High School, Milton E. Tucker, recently donated trees to Pattillo Middle School in Tarboro.

“My wife and I wanted to do something special for the school of a permanent nature,” he said.

The three maple trees were planted in January on the Pattillo Middle School campus in Tarboro. Lowes partially funded the trees and provided a horticulturist for the tree planting to position the trees in the best place for growth and development. The Central Office of the Edgecombe County Public Schools also sent several buildings and grounds employees to assist in planting the trees. Two maples were planted on the front campus next to the Pattillo sign — one on each side. The third tree was planted on the left side of the front entrance of the school closest to Bradley Avenue.

Tucker said he is very pleased with the location of the trees. He wanted them to be planted in places where people could view them with no barriers.

“My wife and I hope the beauty of the trees will contribute to the aesthetics of the school grounds,” he said.

Having lived a life dedicated to education, Tucker retired after a 32-year career serving as a teacher and middle school principal. He experienced a prestigious recognition when the Beecher Board of Education in Flint, Mich., renamed the Summit Middle School to the Milton Eugene Tucker Elementary School in December 2002. Additionally, in November 2004, he was honored for inclusion into the National Register’s Who’s Who for Executives and Professionals.

Tucker is a longtime member and avid supporter of the Pattillo Alumni Association. He was honored as a distinguished graduate by the Pattillo Alumni Association in July 2016 at the annual reunion gala. Tucker is a member of numerous professional and civic organizations. Since his retirement in 1992, he has served in the Beecher Community Schools as an administrative leadership team member.