



Board of County Commissioners

County of Hunterdon
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 4, 2022

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Arbor Day Observed In Hunterdon County With The County Shade Tree Commission

Tree Planted At County Arboretum To Honor The National Holiday On April 29th

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day and the 23rd anniversary of the County Shade Tree Commission, the County's Department of Public Works and Engineering Director, Tom Mathews, met with Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation Division Head, Dan Bush, and members of the Shade Tree Commission, and planted a tree at the county's Arboretum on April 29th at the County's Arbor Day Ceremony, Commissioner Shaun C. Van Doren reported at the May 3rd Board meeting.

Commissioner Van Doren, the Board's Shade Tree Commission liaison, said, "Planting a tree each year on Arbor Day is a tradition which is quintessentially Hunterdon. Our county is known for its parks, trails and abundant flora and fauna. Planting trees protects the land and the wildlife that depends on a healthy ecosystem."

Commissioner Van Doren attended the tree planting to present the Board's Proclamation to Shade Tree Commission Chair, Hans Hancock.

Arbor Day was first recognized in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton who proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. That year, more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska to observe the holiday.

Director Mathews at the Arboretum on April 29th said, "Arbor Day is celebrated worldwide due to the benefits trees provide. Those benefits include the reduction of topsoil caused by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs of homes, moderate the temperature, clean the air and produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife."

The Shade Tree Commission works with the Hunterdon County Department of Public Works to help maintain and enhance the trees within County Road rights-of-way, as well as providing advice to the Division of Parks and Recreation on trees within parklands.



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Mathews continued, "The tree that was planted is the Lacebark Elm and it is both a shade and ornamental tree. The Lacebark Elm got its name from the distinctive bark covering the trunk. The bark is not rigid like other elms, but mottled, creating colorful patterns of brown, gray, green and orange.

The Lacebark Elm affords nesting sites for small animals and birds and their seeds are a bountiful food source for the birds as well. We hope the community enjoys this beautiful addition to the Arboretum landscape."

"Trees are a valuable and renewable resource which provides us with many of the materials that allow the comforts we enjoy in life. We urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations," Van Doren concluded.

For information about the Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission, click [here](#). To learn more about Arbor Day and how to plant and protect trees in your community, click [here](#).