



MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

City of Northampton

Office of the Mayor

210 Main Street Room 12

Northampton, MA 01060-3199

(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275

mayor@northamptonma.gov

For Immediate Release – April 19, 2016

City of Northampton marks Arbor Day with Tree Planting and Education

In honor of Arbor Day on Friday, April 29, 2016, the city of Northampton is planning several community events to raise awareness and education around the value of urban trees. Northampton's Public Shade Tree Commission, in collaboration with Tree Warden, Rich Parasiliti, citizen volunteers, and The Cedar Chest, will plant trees at local elementary schools, hand out free trees to residents, install public art to raise awareness about trees, and plant a tree downtown.

On Arbor Day, eight classrooms at Northampton's four public elementary schools will help plant trees on their school campuses. Students will learn about the many benefits of trees to our community—including providing shade, cleaning our air and water, slowing traffic, providing wildlife habitat, and making our community beautiful. They will practice first-hand the proper technique for tree planting and will learn that abundant watering and proper mulching are critical in a transplanted tree's first year.

With volunteer help, the City will distribute 400 free tree whips in front of City Hall between 9am-3pm on Friday, April 29, and 9am- 12noon on Saturday, April 30. Northampton citizens may choose among four species--Sugar Maple, Common Lilac, Redbud, and Douglas Fir - and will receive instructions on how to plant their tree.

The Cedar Chest, in Thornes Marketplace, is also sponsoring the installation of a sculptural tree by Robert Markey, followed by a live tree planting, in support of the City's effort to re-leaf downtown. The installation, located in an empty tree well in front of Thornes Market, draws attention to the need for street trees in our downtown environment to beautify and cool our streets, and improve our economic and environmental vitality. On or near Arbor Day, the art installation will be replaced with a live Honey Locust, a highly urban-tolerant tree species.

Finally, on Thursday April 21 at 4pm in Smith College's Neilson Browning Room, Lea Sloan, Vice President for Communications for American Forests, will give a presentation entitled *Trees, Science, You and the Future*. This Smith-sponsored event is free and open to the public. Sloan describes her talk: "Science continues to gather compelling evidence of how physical and emotional health are essentially connected to trees and forests, in ways that were likely more obvious to our ancestors. We'll discuss those findings, and opportunities for you to get involved, and to change the way city planners, the health industry, developers, politicians and educators shape our future."