



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 18, 2016

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**WHAT: MONROE CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY AT ARBORWOOD SCHOOLS**

**WHEN:** Presentations to take place Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM.

**DETAILS:** *Monroe, MI* – Students from Arborwood Elementary will become foresters for a day. Fourteen trees will be planted along the east lawn of Riverview Avenue, running from Arborwood South northward to Linwood Avenue. Seven Cleveland Select Pear trees, and seven Pink Spire Crabapple trees will be placed in an alternating pattern, which will blossom white and pink in the spring. City of Monroe employees from the Forestry unit will teach the children how to plant trees, then supervise as the students ultimately plant the saplings on the grounds near the school.

Other scheduled activities include presentation by various city and school officials including Mayor Robert E. Clark; Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering and Public Services; Loretta LaPointe, Recreation Manager; William Walters, Superintendent of Public Services; and Megan Angerer, Dean of Students at Arborwood Elementary Schools. The history of Arbor Day will be highlighted, as well as stewardship opportunities in Monroe throughout the year. Ms. Angerer, will discuss the 'Green School' program that the school is undertaking with recent recycling initiatives, including future partnerships with the City on an "Adopt a Street" program. A proclamation will also be presented by Mayor Clark. The public is invited to attend this event, which will take place rain or shine.

Monroe has many connections to the national holiday. (Julius) Sterling Morton, the founder of Arbor Day, lived in Monroe from 1834 to 1854, and developed a lasting appreciation for nature generally,

and trees specifically. Through writing and publishing stories, Morton encouraged farmers to improve their farming techniques, plant better crops, and plant trees. Morton promoted the many benefits trees could give farmers: reduce soil erosion, provide wood for heating and cooking, and protect farm families from the blistering summer sun. To help promote the many beneficial uses of wood, Morton proposed a tree-planting holiday - Arbor Day!

In 2014, the City received a Community Forestry Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources totaling \$20,000, their largest grant for that year. The matching grant was used to offset internal costs of to create a tree inventory, which was incorporated for use into the City's Geographic Information System (GIS). The City of Monroe completed the comprehensive City-wide tree inventory in fall 2015, and now has condition analysis, species listing, and location data for more than 11,000 City-maintained trees.

As a result of these efforts, the City received the 2016 Governmental Excellence in Urban Forestry award from the Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council at the 2016 Arboriculture Society of Michigan annual conference in February, 2016.

Additionally, the City of Monroe was just recertified as a "Tree City USA" for 2015.

**WHO:** For more information, please contact Patrick Lewis: 734-384-2126, [patrick.lewis@monroemi.gov](mailto:patrick.lewis@monroemi.gov).

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