

Medina Tree Board sponsors celebration, plantings for Arbor Day 2007

Friday was the culmination of weeks of work for the Medina Municipal Tree Board as they celebrated the 135th anniversary of Arbor Day.

The organization hosted an Arbor Day Celebration which featured performances by students from Oak Orchard Elementary School. Chairman of the Tree Board Christopher Busch expressed his gratitude for the participation in the event.

"This is the Tree Board's second annual Arbor Day observance, and we are planting nearly twice as many trees as last year," said Busch. "Many thanks to everyone who made this possible."

Two planting sites in the village were chosen this year— one on West Oak Orchard Street where the actual celebration took place, and the other along the East end of Pearl Street.

The Bank of Castile again provided one of the oak trees for this year's celebration. The oak leaf and acorn are part of the bank logo.

"We were able to plant sixteen trees today," Busch said. "Before the planting season is over, we hope to plant approximately twenty more along the entire length of Pearl Street."

The Department of Public Works went to work today planting the different types of trees. Among those species planted today were oak, maple, sycamore, crab apple, ginkgo, and sweetgum.

Mayor Clayton Ehrenreich read an Arbor Day proclamation, and addressed the crowd by telling them this year's celebration brought back some fond memories of tree planting in his youth. Gesturing to some of the trees around Oak Orchard School, Ehrenreich noted that he was present when some of those trees were planted many years ago.

"I want you all to come back someday with your grandchildren," he said to the school children, "and show them the trees that you have planted here today."

The ceremony included an Arbor Day play, poetry readings, and songs by children at Oak Orchard Elementary School, as well as an Arbor Day scavenger hunt. Medina teacher Mary Dooley also provided a captivating lumberjack demonstration. The group then headed streetside where Busch, Ehrenreich and others gave a ceremonial toss of dirt on one of the tree plantings. Oak Orchard students tried their hand at planting as well.

"Donations from the public are critical in making Arbor Day and other tree plantings a success," said Busch. "It doesn't end with Arbor Day and is a year-round effort." Busch encouraged people to continue to donate by picking up a donation form at the Bank of Castile or the Village Clerk's office.