

# Medina Named Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation

## Year Three Recognition To Take Place At Annual Arbor Day Celebration

April 2010 - Medina, NY

Arbor Day 2010 will make the third time that the Village of Medina has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters, and the USDA Forest Service. Tree City USA is national designation.

"We commend Medina's elected officials, volunteers and its citizens for providing vital care for its urban forest," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation.



TREE CITY USA - Medina Mayor Adam Tabelski receives a tree City USA plaque at Medina's 2009 Arbor Day celebration.

"Trees provide numerous environmental, economical and health benefits to millions of people each day, and we applaud communities that make planting and caring for trees a top priority."

Medina has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community: having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Medina works hard to maintain its Tree City status and with very good reason," said Chris Busch, chairman of the Medina Municipal Tree Board.

"Beyond the obvious aesthetic value of trees in the community, most folks don't realize that there are many additional benefits to maintaining a healthy urban forest," said Busch. "For example, did you know that studies indicate a row of mature street trees has been shown to increase property values between 5- 18%?"

According to Busch, other notable benefits of urban trees include:

- Trees Clean the Air - According to the U.S. Forest Service research, through photosynthesis the average tree in a residential neighborhood will annually clean about 330 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air as well as provide enough oxygen for a family of four.

- **Trees Decrease Flooding** - Trees reduce flooding by helping to reduce runoff. A typical community forest of 10,000 trees will retain approximately 10 million gallons of rainwater per year (United States Forest Service Research).
- **Trees Reduce Stress** - Urban residents and workers suffering from stress have been found to experience less anger, sadness and insecurity when viewing well-treed surroundings.
- **Trees Grow Business** - Research from the University of Washington indicates that “..healthy and well-maintained trees send positive messages about the appeal of a [business] district, the quality of products and what customer service a shopper can expect.”

Busch noted that Medina has worked very hard over the past several years to achieve this national recognition by building an active Municipal Tree Board, and an aggressive tree planting and maintenance program.

“The village is strongly committed to reforesting our community,” said Busch. “Many mature trees were removed this year due to old age and disease, and we will continue to do the best we are able to replant them. Currently, there are approximately 1,300 available planting sites on our streets.”

Busch also said that many residents have asked how they can with reforesting our streets; a question that he and Tree Board members like to hear.



HELPING HANDS - Mayor Adam Tabela and students from Oak Orchard Elementary pile dirt on top of one of the newly planted trees on Main Street. The tree planting was part of the 2009 Arbor Day celebration, where Medina was named a Tree City USA.

“Residents can purchase and install a tree or trees through the village for a very reasonable cost,” said Busch. “If a resident desires to have a tree or trees planted on the right-of-way in front of their house, they should contact the Building Department for more information. Tree planting requires Tree Board approval, but we are eager to help residents reforest our streets.”

Tree Board member Nicole Goyette echoed that thought. “Many people are looking for ways to do their part and help take care of our environment. Start with your own neighborhood! There is no better way to impact our local village

environment than to plant a tree!”

Goyette suggested that neighborhoods could organize, and with the help of the Tree Board, plant trees on their street. “The Tree Board would love to work with any neighborhood group who wants to help plant more trees in the village. We will help you plan, select sites, and choose the right trees,” said Goyette. “Planting trees is not just for Arbor Day!”

21 trees will be planted throughout the village for Arbor Day, including seedless Kentucky

Coffee Tree, Ginkgo, "Metroshade" London Plane, Japanese Zelkova, and White Swamp Oak among others . There have also been inquiries from residents wishing to purchase and install trees to replace those that have been removed.

This year's Medina Arbor Day celebration will once again be held downtown in the parking lot of the former drive-thru bank on the southeast corner of West Avenue and West Center Street.

"Several trees will be planted along West Avenue," said Arbor Day event planner Nicole Goyette. "The celebration will begin at approximately 9:30 A.M., and will include the reading of the Arbor Day Proclamation by Mayor Tabelski, various activities by students from Oak Orchard Elementary School, and of course- the part most enjoyed by the students- ceremonial shoveling of soil at the tree sites!"

Arbor Day is celebrated in Medina and across New York State on the last Friday in April, this year on April 30.

Additional information about the Municipal Tree Board, how a community member can plant a tree, tree memorials, and other tree related information can visit the Municipal Tree Board's web site at:

<<http://villagemedina.org/content/Generic/View/2>> or by contacting the Village Building Department at 798-0770.



HONORING MEDINA -Speaking to students gathered at Medina's 2009 Arbor Day celebration, Jack Feltz, representing National Grid, announces a tree donated to Medina in honor of the Tree City USA designation.