



CITY OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK
OFFICE OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CITY HALL ROOM 305
245 WASHINGTON STREET
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601-3380
(315) 785-7741

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 24, 2024

Michael J. DeMarco, Planner
(315) 785-7884

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26 BEGINS A WEEKLONG TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE IN THE CITY OF WATERTOWN

On **Friday, April 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**, the City's 27th Annual Arbor Day Ceremony will be held at Bicentennial Park, located at the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds in Watertown.

A **northern catalpa** (*Catalpa speciosa*) tree will be planted in honor of Charlie Nevin, a founding member of Tree Watertown, for his lifetime of work in the field of forestry, his leadership in helping to establish Tree Watertown in 1995, and his commitment to a greener City through countless tree planting initiatives in Watertown since the 1970's.

2024 marks the 27th annual Arbor Day observance in the City of Watertown. Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (JCSWCD) staff provide information on the role trees play in improving local water quality and stormwater management. Watertown City Mayor, Sarah V.C. Pierce, will lead the tree planting portion of the event with the reading of this year's Arbor Day Proclamation, and April 26, 2024, will be proclaimed as Arbor Day in the City of Watertown.

On **Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.**, Watertown Noon Rotary, in partnership with Tree Watertown, and the City, conducts their annual spring tree planting project. This year's project takes place on the grounds of **Immaculate Heart Central (IHC) Highschool** located at 1316 Ives Street, and **IHC Elementary School** located at 122 Winthrop Street.

Interested citizens are encouraged to join members of Noon Rotary, Tree Watertown, City staff, JCSWCD, NYS DEC staff; students, parents, and faculty of both IHC School District and Watertown City School District, and other area partners, to plant **50** bare-root trees.

Volunteer Meeting Location: IHC Highschool front entrance. Dress for the weather and bring a shovel.

From **April 30 – May 3, 2024**, The City's Department of Public Works will complete their Annual Spring Tree Planting Project with the planting of **80** trees. A significant portion of this project will help to replace trees lost due to the impacts of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

###

