

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Morristown Shade Tree Commission Celebrates Arbor Day

April 1, 2015 - Morristown, N.J. – The Morristown Shade Tree Commission will celebrate Arbor Day with the Burnham Park Association on Saturday, April 18, to acknowledge the contributions local groups and residents make to promoting, protecting and maintaining the town’s community forest.

This year’s Arbor Day event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in Burnham Park. Before the tree planting, at the gazebo, Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty, BPA President Dr. Lynn Siebert and STC Chair Karl Roettger will make brief statements. Commission member, Michael Rockland, will recite the famous poem, “Trees,” written by Joyce Kilmer, who taught at Morristown High School.

“It’s a privilege for the volunteers of the Morristown Shade Tree Commission to share in the planting of four beautiful native trees with the Burnham Park Association,” Roettger says. “These trees will perpetuate the vision of Frederick and Catherine Burnham that the park should be a place of ‘fine trees’ with ‘wide spreading branches.’” The Burnham family deeded the park to the town in 1911.

To mark the STC’s second Arbor Day celebration, the town will donate one of the four trees planted in Burnham Park. In 2014, the commission began its spring and fall planting, adding 128 trees and 20 shrubs to the town’s community forest. The STC recently completed its inventory of the town’s more than 3,000 public trees.

The BPA will celebrate its 27th Arbor Day. Founded in 1948, the neighborhood group has planted more than 3,500 trees, shrubs, bushes and grasses. In 2005, the association was one of five organizations worldwide to win the National Arbor Foundation’s International Project and Program Award. “The (Burnham) heirs entrusted us with the stewardship of this park,” Dr. Siebert says. “We have spent thousands of dollars – and hours – on Arbor Day plantings to maintain the Burnham family’s vision for this beautiful park.”

Volunteers are welcomed to help plant the trees and clean up the park. They are encouraged to bring shovels, rakes, garden gloves and clippers, and to wear appropriate clothing. Lunch will be provided at the gazebo for participants. Rain date is Saturday, April 25.

The Morristown Shade Tree Commission, created in 2013, is responsible for the town’s public trees and shrubs. The commission meets the second Tuesday of the month in Room 201 in Town Hall at 7 p.m. The public is welcome.

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