



**CITY OF LODI  
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

**AGENDA TITLE:** Arbor Day Proclamation (Tree City USA)  
**MEETING DATE:** March 7, 2007  
**PREPARED BY:** Public Works Director

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Present a proclamation proclaiming Arbor Day in the City of Lodi.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** It all began in Nebraska City, Nebraska, 134 years ago. A special day was set aside for planting trees. This tree planting idea caught on and now we celebrate Arbor Day every year.

All over the world, people are planting trees in their yards and in their communities, caring for them, and learning about their value. Here in the United States, we call this tree planting festival "Arbor Day". In other lands, you may hear it called Arbor Week, Tree Holiday, or Tree Festival. In Japan, it is called Greening Week. In Israel, it is called the New Year's Day of the Trees. Korea actually has a Tree-Loving Week, and Iceland has a Student's Afforestation Day. (Notice the word "forest" hidden in that complicated word.) This means "to change open land into forest." People in India celebrate a National Festival of Tree Planting. Whatever people call this special time of year, they are sharing the news that trees are important to us all, wherever we live around the world.

This year, Lodi Unified School District will participate, along with Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Electric Utilities, and Tree Lodi volunteers, to help the City of Lodi celebrate Arbor Day.

**Arbor Day's Beginnings**

On January 4, 1872, Julius Sterling Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday, to be called "Arbor Day", at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for planting the largest number of trees properly on that day. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Arbor Day was officially proclaimed by the young state's Governor Robert W. Furnas on March 12, 1874, and the day itself was observed April 10, 1874. In 1885, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska, and April 22nd, Morton's birthday, was selected as the date for its permanent observance.

During the 1870s, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day and the tradition began in schools nationwide in 1882.

Arbor Day has now spread beyond the United States and is observed in many countries of the world.

Lodi has been designated as a Tree City USA for a fifth consecutive year. This designation affords us preference over other communities for grant money for trees or forestry programs and gives us an enhanced public image as a city that cares about its trees.

APPROVED:

Blair King, City Manager

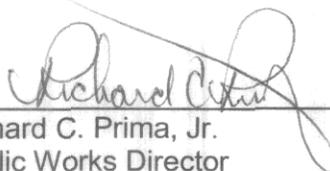
In the City of Lodi, trees are very important. The celebration of Arbor Day gives an opportunity to learn about trees and take positive action to make the world a better place. Here is a quick list of reasons trees are so important to us all:

- Trees provide shade to keep us and our homes cool on hot summer days.
- Trees give off vital oxygen through photosynthesis which you and I and animals need to breathe.
- Trees absorb harmful pollutants and small particles from the air that could damage our lungs.
- Trees provide protection from the wind.
- Trees reduce noise pollution.
- Trees give us products such as: chewing gum, crayons, soap, shatterproof glass, suntan lotion, cork, dyes, life-saving drugs, writing paper, syrup, perfume, pencils, firewood, building materials, and much, much more.
- Trees provide a home and food for wildlife.
- Rotting logs and leaves eventually turn into soil and put nutrients back into the soil for other plants to grow.
- Trees are beautiful to look at, nice to listen to as leaves rustle in the breeze, fun to explore, exciting to climb, and great to dream under.

Staff would like to invite the Mayor, the City Council, the City Manager, and the community to this year's Arbor Day Celebration. This year's event will be held on Friday, April 6, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Lois E. Borchardt School. Borchardt School students will be planting trees at the school.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Not applicable.

**FUNDING AVAILABLE:** Not applicable.

  
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RCP/GMB/RF/dsg

cc: D. Stephen Schwabauer, City Attorney  
Tony Goehring, Parks & Recreation Director  
Steve Dutra, Parks Superintendent  
Ray Fye, Tree Operations Supervisor