



WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP

SHING-FU HSUEH, MAYOR

PRESS RELEASE

Office of the Mayor – West Windsor Township

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Windsor Township
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65th State Arbor Day will be held in West Windsor on April 25

WEST WINDSOR, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Community Forestry Program and the New Jersey Community Forestry Council in collaboration with the West Windsor Shade Tree Commission, are going to celebrate New Jersey's 65th Arbor Day by planting trees in West Windsor Township at the Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum on April 25, 2014 starting at 3:00 P.M.

The DEP has been promoting Arbor Day statewide since 1949, when the New Jersey Legislature designated the last Friday in April as the official day to honor trees and the people who take care of them. This year's Arbor Day will be the 65th State Arbor Day in New Jersey. Trees play an important role in the ecosystem in which we live, and trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil caused by wind and water, clean the air we breathe and the water we drink, produce oxygen, provide habitat for birds and wildlife, reduce heating and cooling costs by moderating temperatures, and making our communities more livable. Community forestry is an essential component of a healthy future for New Jersey.

West Windsor Township was selected to host the New Jersey State Arbor Day to help celebrate their 35 years as a Tree City USA and their accomplishments in working to develop a healthy, safe, and sustainable community forest. The Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum was dedicated in honor of the late Ronald R. Rogers who is remembered as West Windsor's Forester, an honor that reflects the tremendous time and effort he volunteered to promote and implement community forestry in the Township. The arboretum has about 25 acres of land that consists of approximately 12 acres of open space and 13 acres of woodland. The arboretum is also the site of the September 11 Memorial; West Windsor lost seven residents in the September 11 terrorist attacks. Planting trees in the arboretum will help residents to remember the strength and resilience of nature, the human spirit, and our community.

During the ceremony, the 2014 Arbor Day Art Contest winners will be recognized among students from the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District. It will be a great opportunity for kids and their parents to appreciate and learn about trees. The Joyce Kilmer Award for outstanding contributions to community forests will be presented. Recipients of the 2014 Tree Line USA, the 2014 Tree Campus USA, and the 2014 Tree City USA Awards for 1st, 10th, 15th, 25th, and 35th year also will be recognized.

The Tree City USA Award program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes cities, counties, military bases, and utility companies that develop tree management programs and help educate the community on tree care. With 170 Tree City USA communities, more than any state in the northeast and ranked 4th overall, New Jersey shows a strong commitment to maintain and enhance our community forests.

Mayor Hsueh stated, "West Windsor is honored to be hosting New Jersey's 65th Arbor Day celebration and the planting of trees in the Ron Rogers Arboretum. We are very proud of the awards bestowed upon our community and thank our Shade Tree Commission. They have been an incredible asset to the Township helping to ensure West Windsor remains a green and sustainable community. We thank those who strive to create and care for the community forests of our great state of New Jersey providing for the health and enjoyment of all."

For more information, please contact New Jersey Community Forestry at (609) 292-2532 or Alec.McCartney@dep.state.nj.us.

Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum Address

The park is located across street from West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South at:

346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor Township, NJ

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