AGENDA ITEM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Drew Bontrager

DATE: April 7, 2014

RE: Arbor Day Proclamation

Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. Founded by J. Sterling Morton in 1872, it's celebrated on the last Friday in April, but many states and cities observe Arbor Day on different dates according to their best tree-planting times. Missouri observes Arbor Day on the first Friday of April. However, to coincide with the schedule of Parkview Elementary, we would like to observe Arbor Day on the second Friday of April again this year.

To celebrate Arbor Day on Friday April 11, in cooperation with Parkview Elementary, and the Missouri Department of Conservation, we will plant a tree with the Kindergarten class in Kelsey Park. Once the tree is planted, we will install a plaque, to display their class year of 2026 along with the type of tree.

Each year we will take the classes back to their tree to discuss Arbor Day and proper tree care. We will also take a picture with the class in front of their tree each year, so the kids can look back at how they and their tree have both grown. This is now our sixth year of celebrating Arbor Day by planting a tree with the Kindergarten class.