AGENDA ITEM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Drew Bontrager

DATE: April 2, 2012

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 this year.

To celebrate Arbor Day on Friday April 13, 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 2024 along with the type of tree. Bob Dorton Tree Services, of Cameron, has offered to donate a White Oak tree to the Class of 2024.

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 fifth year of celebrating Arbor Day by planting a tree with the Kindergarten class.

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

Now, Therefore, I, Mayor of the City of Cameron, Clinton and DeKalb Counties, Missouri, do hereby proclaim April 13, 2012 as

ARBOR DAY

in the City of Cameron, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands; and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Dated this 2nd day of April 2012.

_____
Mayor Frank A. Buck

Attest:

_____
City Clerk