

City of Falls Church

Meeting Date: 4-9-12	Title: Proclamation Declaring April 21, 2012 as Arbor Day	Agenda No.: 6 (a)
Proposed Motion: n/a		
Originating Dept. Head: Bill Hicks, P.E., Director of Public Works 703.248.5287	Disposition by Council:	
City Manager: F. Wyatt Shields 703.248.5004	City Attorney: John Foster. 703.248.5010	CFO: Richard La Condre 703.248.5092

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church is known for the beauty of its trees and plantings; and

WHEREAS, trees release oxygen into our atmosphere while reducing carbon dioxide, provide habitat for wildlife, reduce the erosion of soil by the wind and water, filter pollutants before they reach our waterways and reduce heating and cooling cost by moderating temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church has been designated as a “Tree City, USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation for 34 consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, in 1892, the first observance of Arbor Day in the Commonwealth of Virginia took place in Falls Church at the old Jefferson School, as organized by the Village Improvement Society (predecessor of the present Village Preservation and Improvement Society); and

WHEREAS, each April since 1974 Falls Church has held a city-wide celebration of Arbor Day, during which elementary school children take part in the planting of trees on school grounds, and citizens plant trees and otherwise join the observance, including an afternoon program at Frady Park; and

WHEREAS, the American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) has been selected as the 2012 “Tree of the Year” by the Falls Church Tree Commission and the Department of Public Works Urban Forestry Division,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nader Baroukh, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, in recognition of the economic, social and environmental benefits that healthy trees provide to our community, do hereby proclaim April 21, 2012 as

ARBOR DAY

in the City of Falls Church and urge all citizens to join in the celebration of that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City to be affixed this 9th day of April, 2012.

Nader Baroukh, Mayor