

The First Arbor Day In Falls Church and the Commonwealth of Virginia

Monday, December 28, 1891

The lecture by Hon. B.G. Northrop of Connecticut, under the auspices of the Village Improvement society, on Monday night last, was large, attended, and the lecture was full of interest. Mr. Northrop was introduced by Mr. A.E. Rowell, president of the Society. Miss Julia Pond sang a solo, and Mr. S.N. Pond gave two solos with banjo accompaniment. Dr. Northrop was entertained by Mr. A.P. Eastman and during the day, Councilman Eli Northrup furnished the best turnout of his livery and a drive was had around the town. Dr. Northrop expressed himself delighted with Falls Church and its surroundings. At the suggestion of Mr. Northrop, the village Improvement Society has voted to request the Board of school trustees to set apart a day to be called "Arbor day." To be devoted to the planting of trees on school grounds.

Fairfax Herald – Friday, January 1, 1892 – page 3.

Monday, April 25, 1892

Arbor Day was celebrated on Monday last, and proved a very interesting occasion. At 10 o'clock the ceremonies opened at the public school building. Mr. G.A.L. Merrifield presiding. Singing by the school "Auld Lang Syne." Prayer by Rev. D. L. Rathbun. The scholars from the public school and those from the school of the Rev. D.L. Rathbun participated in the exercises, which consisted of recitations and songs and addresses by Messrs. G.A.L. Merrifield and S.V. Proudfit. The songs "Welcome" and "Around the Tree" were rendered especially good. After the exercises in the hall the ceremony of tree planting took place and one hundred trees were planted on the school house grounds, and the rest in different sections of the town. After the planting of the trees all again repaired to the school building and a basket picnic was indulged in and a most enjoyable time had.

Fairfax Herald – Friday, April 29, 1892 – page 3.

Arbor Day Program

Introduction

*Dave Eckert, Program Chair
City Tree Commission*

Welcome to the First Arbor Day in 3 Parts

By the Falls Church Victorian Society

1. The Storm at the Jefferson Institute
2. Birdsey Northrop at the Congregation Church
3. Arbor Day at the Jefferson Institute

Welcome to the 114th Anniversary Celebration

Barry Buschow, President

Falls Church Village Preservation & Improvement Society

Award of 29th Annual Tree City, U.S.A.

*To Mayor Daniel Gardner & City Arborist Jill Spence
By Virginia Department of Forestry*

Unveiling of the Concept Plan for the Proposed Arbor Day Commons

Brian Kane, Landscape Architect

Tree Dedication

American Elm for Paul Smail

Home Tour and Reception

*Proctor House
The Falls Church Victorian Society*

2006 Falls Church Tree-of-the-Year American Elm - *Ulmus americana*

The 2006 Tree-of-the-Year is the **American elm** (*Ulmus americana*). Throughout most of the last century the vase-shaped arching form of this majestic tree could be found lining the streets of many cities and towns. Today however, the American elm has dwindled significantly, mostly due to Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Thanks to research, a number of DED resistant cultivars are now available! *Ulmus americana* 'Valley Forge' has proven to be the most resistant to DED. American elm "Valley Forge" will be planted through out this year as street trees, in conjunction with the [Neighborhood Tree Program \(NTP\)](#) planting events and also in our parks as Arbor Day trees.

Arbor Day Tree Dedication to *Paul Smail*

Paul Smail, a long-time City of Falls Church resident lived one block from Frady Park. He was a "hands-on" volunteer in the City's effort to preserve and improve the beauty our community. Paul passed away in 2006 at the age of 92 leaving a legacy and a model for the whole community. An American Elm donated by the Village Preservation and Improvement Society has been planted in Frady Park by the City's Landscape Crew under the direction of the City Arborist.

City Tree Commission

Appointed by the City Council, this 5-person commission advises the City Council on policy and the City Manager on administrative issues related to trees. It also assists the City Arborist in her duties.

Falls Church Village Preservation & Improvement Society

Founded in 1885, this non-profit citizen organization works to preserve our natural and built environment and historic structures and landmarks and promotes cultural activities. www.VPIS.org

Falls Church Victorian Society

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The City of Falls Church

Arbor Day

114th Falls Church Arbor Day Anniversary

*3:00 pm
April 22, 2006
Frady Park*

Sponsors

*Village Preservation & Improvement Society
City of Falls Church
Falls Church Victorian Society*