



For Immediate Release
May 3, 2011
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Tree Lafayette Holds Local Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, May 7, 2011

Tree Lafayette, formerly known as the Lafayette Tree Fund, will hold its primary event of the year with an Arbor Day celebration and tree planting on Saturday, May 7 at 9 a.m. until approximately 12 p.m. Participants will gather at a tent set up on the north side of Brady Lane between Sagamore Parkway and Concord Road in Lafayette to plant 57 trees in the vicinity. A Tree Lafayette banner will be displayed prominently marking the location of the event.

The organization is seeking all interested volunteers to help plant the trees and become involved with the day's events. Parking will be available at the Tippecanoe County Highway parking lot near the corner of Brady Lane and Sagamore Parkway. Parking signs will be set up directing participants to the parking. Registration for the event will also take place at this location, and will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Tree Lafayette's Arbor Day is a chance for volunteers, supporters, dignitaries, and its board of directors to come together to fulfill its mission of planting and promoting a healthy community on this Mother's Day weekend.

"Tree Lafayette's goal is to plant all corridors in Lafayette," says Tree Lafayette President Larry Rose. "We are presently planting the Creasy Lane-Brady Lane-Twyckenham Boulevard corridor from Peter's Mill Bridge off Creasy Lane to the end of Twyckenham Boulevard."

Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski will be in attendance, and will read an Arbor Day proclamation. Belinda Kiger, who is the urban forestry manager for the City of Lafayette will present the Tree City USA award to Mayor Roswarski. The City of Lafayette is receiving the award for the 19th consecutive year.

The event is collaboration between Tree Lafayette and the City of Lafayette. Trees of different species will be planted along Brady Lane. After volunteers register, they will separate into groups to plant the trees.

“This is our 18th consecutive Arbor Day planting since we began planting in April of 1994,” says Arlan Stavnheim, Arbor Day project manager for Tree Lafayette. “Our goal is to plant and maintain as many street trees as we can along major corridors like Brady Lane.”

In 2011, Tree Lafayette has already planted 52 trees, and 1,281 trees since 1994, which was the year after the organization was established. Although the Arbor Day celebration is its most well known event, it is one of many that have already taken place since Jan. 1, 2011, including a large-scale tree planting on Main Street, a tree planting and program at Thomas Miller Elementary School, a booth at the Ag Awareness Days at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds and a booth at Imagination Station, and a tree planting for Earth Day in the parking lot of Lafayette City Hall.

Corporate funding for Tree Lafayette comes from many different companies in the community including the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, Duke Energy, Evonik Degussa Corp., Alcoa Lafayette Operation, Tipmont REMC Envirowatts, Heritage Interactive Services, and SIA.