

April 03, 2014

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Arbor Day contest winners to have trees planted in their honor**

The winners of the City-wide 2014 Arbor Day Poster Contest will celebrate with trees planted in their honor throughout the month of April.

Top awards went to:

- First Place: Greenwood fifth-grader Brayden O'Neal, who also won the state contest popular vote.
- Second Place: Hickory Hills fifth-grader Lauren Derenski, who also won the state contest for technical merit.
- Third Place: Eugene Field fifth-grader Joshua Swanson.

Winning posters were selected by local tree experts the Missouri Community Forestry Council (MCFC) and the Springfield Tree City USA Citizens' Advisory Committee for each participating school, then narrowed down for the City-wide winners. The contest asked students to create a poster reflecting the theme "Tree Work for Energy Management."

Each winner will receive an award and have a tree dedicated in their honor at their school at the times listed below.

- Pleasant View Elementary School: Ellie Clark. Ellie's tree will be dedicated at 8:15 a.m., Friday, April 4.
- Eugene Field Elementary School: Joshua Swanson, who won third place City-wide. Joshua's tree will be dedicated at 11 a.m., Friday, April 4.
- St. Agnes Elementary School: Rylie Jeffers. Rylie's tree will be dedicated at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, April 24.
- St. Agnes' Anthony Mancuso will receive the 2014 Monterastelli Award. Anthony's tree will be dedicated at 2 p.m., Friday, April 4. The Monterastelli Award was established in 2012 and is named for Jerry Monterastelli, an urban forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation, who passed away that year. Jerry served on the panel of judges that determines the City-wide first through third places. Jerry's wife, June Monterastelli, is a retired fifth-grade teacher and selects the winner of the Monterastelli Award.
- Greenwood Laboratory School: Brayden O'Neal, who won first place City-wide and the state popular vote. Brayden's tree will be dedicated at 9:30 a.m., Friday, April 11.
- Hickory Hills Elementary School: Lauren Derenski, who won second place City-wide and first place in the state for technical merit. Lauren's tree will be dedicated at 9:45 a.m. Friday, April 18.

- Disney Elementary School: Paige Fleming. Paige's tree will be dedicated at 2 p.m., Friday, April 18.
- Mark Twain Elementary School: Hannah Curnutt. Hannah's tree will be dedicated at 10 a.m., Friday, April 25.
- Sherwood Elementary School: Grace Miller. Grace's tree will be dedicated at 11:30 a.m., Friday, April 25.
- Holland Elementary School: Joseph Nguyen. Joseph's tree will be dedicated at 2 p.m., Friday, April 25.

The City of Springfield will receive its 29th consecutive Tree City USA Award and its 11th Growth Award at the Springfield Arbor Day event at 9:30 a.m., April 11 at Greenwood Laboratory School.

For more information, contact: Casey Jo Kellner, Public Works Urban Forester, at 417-864-1135.