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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Arbor Day Tree Event Celebration: Planting Seeds of Change

Umatilla, OR- APRIL 22, 2024- Umatilla was named a 2023 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management.
Umatilla achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: maintaining a tree board or department, having a tree care ordinance, dedicating an annual community forestry budget of at least $2 per capita, and hosting an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Tree City USA communities see the positive effects of an urban forest firsthand," said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees being planted and care for by Umatilla are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program brings residents together and creates a sense of civic pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

The City of Umatilla, in collaboration with Amazon Web Services and The Arbor Day Foundation, plans to plant over 100 trees to celebrate Arbor Day. Through two Arbor Day-themed events, the City aims to enhance the greenery of Umatilla. The first event, the 6th Street Tree Planting on April 25th at Village Square Park, will have the City Council, City Manager, and Community Partners present. The initiative will be supported by generous contributions from Community Partners, providing both volunteers and trees for the planting along 6th Street.

The second event scheduled for April 26th will feature a diverse array of activities. The agenda includes a Community Tree Giveaway, an Arbor Day Celebration in

collaboration with McNary Heights Elementary School, and a Tree Planting event at the Golf Course.

The Community Tree Giveaway will be held at Hash Park, located at 440 Pendleton Ave, Umatilla, OR 97882 from 9-11 AM. Community members are welcome to participate by receiving trees for their homes. The only requirement is to provide an address where these trees will be planted. These trees stand at 4-5 ft. in height, please make sure you have enough space for transportation. The giveaway will continue while supplies last.

Concurrently, the Arbor Day Celebration with McNary Heights Elementary School will engage students in various educational activities, including learning about water and fire safety, as well as crafting bird seed ornaments. At the same time, there will be a tree-planting event occurring at the Big River Golf Course. Community Partners have graciously supplied volunteers and trees for planting trees.

Noemy Vega, Parks and Recreation Coordinator states "We are very happy that Umatilla's Arbor Day celebration has continued to grow thanks to support from our community. With the tree planting taking place on Thursday, we are very excited for what we have planned for the students of McNary Heights Elementary School on Friday. By having the younger generation involved in the tree planting and teaching them the importance of taking care of our community we hope that they can look back and see the impact that supporting their community can have."

As Arbor Day approaches, let us remember the vital role trees play in enhancing our environment and quality of life. By participating in events like the Arbor Day Tree Project, we can all contribute to a greener, more sustainable future for generations to come. We invite the Umatilla community to join us in celebrating Arbor Day and making a difference in our city by taking part in the Community Tree Giveaway at Hash Park. Together, we can create a more vibrant and greener urban forest for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about what it means to be a Tree City USA or the Arbor Day Foundation, please visit www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

About Umatilla Parks and Recreation
The city of Umatilla Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide high-quality, affordable, diverse recreational opportunities that are accessible to all residents of Umatilla. For more information about other Parks and Rec Activities or Events, please visit The City of Umatilla website: https://umatillaparksandrec.org.

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