



News from: Oakland Public Works

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2014

Video & Photo Opportunity

## Students Honor National Arbor Day with Tree Planting

**Oakland, CA** – For the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the City of Oakland will celebrate **Arbor Day** with a community planting and environmental education program with school children. This tree planting coincides with the National **Arbor Day** program that publicizes the importance of tree planting and long-term care. Arbor Day is one of many ways the City works to maintain its status as a sustainable and green city. This year, the planting of eleven crape myrtle trees will enhance the beauty along the street in front of Jefferson School.

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**What:** Tree Planting in Honor of Arbor Day at Jefferson School

**When:** Friday, April 25, 2014 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** Jefferson School, 2035 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Oakland, CA

**Who:** Oakland Public Works Tree Services, Certified Arborists & Students

Jefferson Elementary School science students will plant the trees under the direction of a Certified Arborist from Oakland Public Works and assistance from the U.S. Forest Service. Students will learn about the importance of trees in our urban ecosystem and how trees improve the quality of life by providing shade, habitat, oxygen and help offset greenhouse gases.

“Engaging our youth in the hands-on planting of trees is an effective way of engaging them in an environmental commitment,” explained Interim Director of Oakland Public Works, Brooke A. Levin. “Being a part of National Arbor Day, and celebrating Oakland’s urban forest is critical to the sustainability and environmental needs of Oakland, California and beyond to the global community.”

Oakland has earned the designation as a **Tree City U.S.A.** because it meets the qualifications of the National **Arbor Day** Foundation, which includes funding for trees, a tree protection ordinance, a community forestry program and an annual **Arbor Day** celebration.

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