

Tree planting marks Arbor Day in Brockport

About 60 volunteers, including residents, elementary students, Boys Scouts, SUNY Brockport students and faculty participated in a tree planting exercise commemorating Arbor Day 2007. The April 27 event began at Remembrance Park with Margay Blackman, chairperson of the Brockport Tree Board, welcoming all to the board's second such event. A \$7,400 grant from the DEC funded the purchase of 39 trees and village crews and volunteers provided the labor to get the planting job done. Following remarks from Brockport Mayor Mort Wexler and SUNY Brockport Academic Affairs representative Michael Fox, Brockport resident William Heyen read a poem he wrote for the occasion and workers were off to on a warm-up walk north down Park Avenue then east down Spring Street to meet up with Rick Lair and his crew from the Facilities and Maintenance Department at SUNY Brockport who gave a practical demonstration of how to plant a tree.

Workers then went about planting 25 trees on Spring Street and 14 trees on Gordon Street. Their hard work was rewarded with a break for pizza provided by Mark's Pizzeria, Main Street Pizza and Pizza Hut. Jo Matela of The Red Bird Tea Shoppe provided lemonade.



Volunteers walk down Spring Street to the site near Brockport Cold Storage where a tree planting demonstration was held.



Among the volunteers were fourth and fifth graders from Lisa Montanaro's classes at Fred W. Hill School. Above, they prepare to plant a Golden Rain tree. Shown (l to r) Mollie Flynn, Olivia Wilcox, Taylor Sweeney, Karina Kyle, Chelsea Cond. Photograph by Walter Horylev.



Tree Board recognizes volunteers

On April 27, the Village of Brockport celebrated Arbor Day by planting 39 trees on Spring and Gordon Streets, their purchase funded by a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Some 60 people turned out to help plant trees, coming from SUNY Brockport, the community, and the Brockport Central School system.

The Village of Brockport DPW delivered the trees; SUNY Brockport's Facilities and Planning crews showed us how to plant them, and both crews stood by to assist throughout the afternoon. At the end of the day the dirt strewn volunteers were rewarded with pizza donated by Main Street Pizza, Mark's Pizzeria, and Pizza Hut and lemonade furnished by the Red Bird Tea Shoppe.

Thanks from the tree board to all who helped in this worthwhile effort. If you have time in the next few days, stroll down Spring and Gordon streets to see the new pear and cherry trees in bloom.

We will be planting more individual trees in the late fall. Village residents who want a tree should visit the Tree Board's website at <http://treeboard.brockportny.org> and complete the tree planting request form.

Margay Blackman
Village of Brockport
Tree Board



Making it look easy -- A crew of workers from SUNY Brockport provides a hand-on demo of correct tree planting techniques. First, dig the hole and prepare the surrounding soil; second, roll the root ball into the hole and place it; third, back fill and tamp down the dirt to remove air pockets.

At right, looking down Spring Street, trees await some brawn to be lifted into holes.

Photographs by
Walter Horylev.