

Good Things for Winfield by busy Winfield United Volunteers

Did you ever plant a tree sapling that was given to you on **Arbor Day**? And have you driven by that tree today? Arbor Day is a day set aside to plant trees and in communities across America dedicated volunteers give out free tree saplings.

Several Winfield United (WU) volunteers had the good fortune to visit area schools and give Sycamore and Red Maple saplings to kindergarteners through fourth graders. Between the Winfield area public schools we distributed over 1000 trees! It was so much fun visiting the schools; the teachers, administrators and children were just a delight. The children were given information about the value of trees and a planting guide to take home with their little tree.

We assume that only some of them will survive but we see this day as a success of good will and environmental education for our children.

To further our dedication to planting trees for Arbor Day, **WU had a tree sale** and to our astonishment our supply of 105 trees sold out in less than an hour. We sold an average of 2 trees per minute! We offered a variety of hard woods and ornamentals. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to purchase a tree! And we look forward to next year.

Every April around Earth Day the **Prairie Path gets a clean up** and there we were, WU volunteers armed with rakes and trash bags. We are happy to report that the trail users of the Prairie Path south of Geneva Rd at the Winfield Mounds are a tidy bunch. We found very little trash! So we turned our attention to Winfield Road across from Fredricksburg Farm. We didn't count them but we had a nice big pile of bulging trash bags ready for pick up.

When I first moved to Winfield in 2003 I noticed how lovely the Gazebo at Creekside Park looked. I thought to myself someone who loves gardening is taking care of that Gazebo. As an avid gardener and tree hugger, I now know that someone is the Winfield Area Gardeners. Last year and again this year the Winfield United volunteers had the good fortune of helping with the **planting at the Gazebo**. Under the tutelage of Winfield Area Gardeners president Sandy Whiston and Secretary Kim Koelsch, a gang of WU volunteers helped prep, plant and fertilize the beds and we finished off with a good long drink of water from the nice new hose hookup in the park. The Gazebo is now ready for wedding photos and for all who enjoy the lovely park; and just think, all with the help of volunteers.

Aren't we lucky in Winfield to have such a great group of productive people willing to volunteer their time for our community? Thanks to all who helped.

Karen Skillman