

PRESS RELEASE 10/19/2006

The Illinois Arborist Association 2006 Conference & Trade Show awards Winfield United it's Gold Leaf Award for Arbor Day 2006 community outreach efforts.

Winfield United for a Better Community, a grass roots organization in Winfield, IL was formed in 2004 to better represent the residents of Winfield in local political activities, communication with the entire Village of Winfield, and to promote volunteerism for local improvement projects.

Raising community consciousness about the value of trees in the suburban landscape was a major project undertaken in 2006.

Winfield United volunteers distributed 1148 native trees (sycamores and red maples) at four local elementary schools attended by Winfield children in 38 classrooms on two days in April to commemorate Arbor Day. Handing out 12-18" seedlings were 5 volunteers accompanied at some locations by Morti, the Morton Arboretum's costumed, speaking tree, and Mike, an Arboretum volunteer. Children and presenters discussed the value of trees and how to plant and care for the bare root seedlings. Winfield United volunteers received many thank you notes from happy students.

Also, the Winfield United held its first annual Native Tree Sale the day after Arbor Day. As it turned out, all 104 trees were sold in the first hour of the sale.

The Illinois Arborist Association is a non-profit professional organization whose goal is to educate its members in proper tree care, establish professional standards and pursue scientific research in Arboriculture.

Winfield United values our suburban forest canopy and we are committed to maintaining a balance of green space and development in our Village; we gladly accepted this award at the Illinois Arborist Association annual conference and trade show October 17<sup>th</sup> and we thank Edith Makra of the Morton Arboretum for her continued support.