



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Brookhaven to celebrate Arbor Day with tree planting; City recognized for support of trees**

### ***City to plant trees in Georgian Hills Park***

**Brookhaven, GA, Feb. 19, 2016** – Brookhaven will celebrate Arbor Day by planting trees in one of Brookhaven's older parks, Georgian Hills, 2800 East Georgian Drive, on Saturday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Mayor John Ernst will read an Arbor Day proclamation to recognize the importance of trees to the city. City council members and the city's arborist will be present to help in the planting of a new tree, and Bartlett Tree Experts is donating a year of care for the tree.

Those attending this event will be eligible to receive a free tree seedling given away on a first-come, first-served basis. This year the city is giving away 50 River Birch and 50 Bald Cypress tree seedlings.

Local arborists and tree services will be on hand, and children are welcome at this family friendly event.

### ***Trees Atlanta honors Brookhaven for being a 'Trees City USA' community***

**Brookhaven, GA, Feb. 19, 2016** – Brookhaven was among 25 Georgia cities recognized on Feb. 17 for its commitment to caring for and managing its public trees. Brookhaven was honored during the 2016 State Arbor Day celebration at Trees Atlanta for being one of Georgia's "Tree City USA" communities.

Tree City USA provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America that meet certain requirements, including the establishment of a tree board or department, a community tree ordinance, specific spending levels for urban forestry and planned Arbor Day celebrations. There are 135 Tree City USAs in Georgia. Nationwide, more than 3,400 Tree City USA communities serve as home to more than 135 million Americans.

The event also recognized Tree Campus USA colleges and Tree Line USA utilities. Due to Georgia's ideal winter tree planting season, the third Friday in February is designated annually as Arbor Day in Georgia. Governor Nathan Deal signed a proclamation naming Feb. 19 as Arbor Day in Georgia for 2016.

The City of Brookhaven gave away tree seedlings to residents and transplanted a holly tree in Blackburn Park II in 2015. The tree was moved from the right-of-way in the Brookhaven Forest subdivision.

"Trees clean our air, filter our water, spur economic growth and provide countless opportunities to enjoy recreation, contributing to a better quality of life," said Robert Farris, Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission. "The citizens of Brookhaven can take pride in their community leaders' commitment to trees and forested land - on Arbor Day and every other day of the year."

For more information about Georgia's trees and services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit [GaTrees.org](http://GaTrees.org). For information about becoming a Tree City USA and the Arbor Day Foundation, visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).



Georgia Forestry Commission Director Robert Farris (right) congratulates Kay Evanovich (center) and Murray Nicol (left), for helping Brookhaven become a Tree City USA community. #GAarborday

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