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Wood-Ridge Reaches Tree City USA Milestone

WOOD-RIDGE, N.J. - The Borough of Wood-Ridge announces its 20th year as a certified Tree City USA with the Arbor Day Foundation, one of only six towns in Bergen County to reach this milestone.

“In the past three years we have planted more than 300 new trees. It is important to this governing body that Wood-Ridge continue its legacy as a community that cares about creating a pleasant streetscape for our merchants, appealing sidewalks for our residents, and positive long-term impacts on the local and the global environment,” said Mayor Paul Sarlo. “We especially thank our Shade Tree Commission for all of the planning and hard work needed each year to maintain our Tree City USA status.”

According to Wood-Ridge Shade Tree Commission Chairman George Meglio, a municipality must have an active tree board, an ordinance for the care of trees, a community forestry plan, and an annual Arbor Day resolution to remain a Tree City. Only 152, or roughly 27 percent, of New Jersey’s 566 municipalities have earned this distinction. While 30 of the Tree Cities are in Bergen County, only 6 have been Tree Cities for 20 years or longer. Wood-Ridge, Ridgefield Park and Maywood, among some of Bergen County’s smallest towns, reached 20 together this year.

“We are committed to ensuring that residents can take pride in Wood-Ridge’s trees,” said Councilman and Shade Tree Committee Liaison Dominick Azzolini. “Frequently, DPW staff or arborists can be seen removing dead, diseased or irreparably damaged trees and replacing them with new, healthy ones. We have also started a small tree farm in town to provide for ongoing replacements.”

The Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities that more than 120 million Americans call home.

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