

EARTH DAY/ARBOR DAY ISSUE



On **Saturday, April 25, 2009** the Town of Cutler Bay will celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day at Saga Bay Park, 7900 SW 205th ST. The event will take place between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Clean-up work and planting of new trees within the park will take place in an effort to restore some of the earth's natural resources. Mayor Vrooman will proclaim April 25, 2009 as Arbor Day and in addition, free lunch for all volunteer workers and families will be provided from 12:30 pm to 2:30 at Cutler Ridge Park, 10100 SW 200th St under the new pavilion.

A Brief History of Earth Day

Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, raw sewage, toxic dumps, heavily polluting factories and power plants, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values. On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate on behalf of a healthy, sustainable environment. In 1990, Earth Day went global, with 200 million people from 141 nations participating. Thousands of activities took place worldwide, including demonstrations, tree plantings, river clean-ups, cultural events and government-sponsored initiatives. This international groundswell of concern for the environment elevated the status of environmental issues on the world stage and led many governments to create agencies for environmental protection.

A Brief History of Arbor Day

Arbor Day is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. National Arbor Day was founded by J. Sterling Morton in 1872 and is celebrated in April. In addition to participating in Arbor Day, the Town of Cutler Bay is striving to become a Tree City USA, which is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The program 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. The many benefits of being a Tree City include creating a framework for action, education, a positive public image, and citizen pride.

Ideas to Your Own Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration

- **Celebrate Arbor Day in a personal way** by planting a tree yourself. It is an act of optimism and kindness, a labor of love and a commitment to stewardship.
- **Read a book about trees.** Learn to identify trees in your yard and neighborhood.
- **Enjoy the outdoors.** Visit a local park or take a nature hike.
- **Attend a class on tree and plant care.**
- **Volunteer** with a local tree-planting organization. You'll meet new people and make a difference in your community.

For more information on the Cutler Bay Earth Day/Arbor Day event please contact Alan Ricke, Cutler Bay Parks and Recreation Director at 305-238-4166 or at aricke@cutlerbay-fl.gov.

For more information on: Town of Cutler Bay – www.cutlerbay-fl.gov
Earth Day – www.earthday.net
Arbor Day – www.arborday.org

