



GERALD W. TAMBURRO
Mayor

Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

Administrative Offices:
Municipal Complex
1 Municipal Plaza
Monroe Township, N.J. 08831
732-521-4400

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Shade Tree Commission Brings Recovery Campaign, 2,000 Free Seedlings to Monroe

MONROE – The Monroe Township Shade Tree Commission will be the lead for the local New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, distributing 2,000 free seedlings to residents at various Township locations April 14. The recovery campaign is a five-year program that’s been helping communities replace trees damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Sandy, a superstorm that pummeled much of New Jersey in 2012.

“Trees are a great asset to any community,” said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. “Aside from their aesthetic appeal, trees increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat. Our Shade Tree Commission has done a phenomenal job organizing and leading this effort, and I encourage all of our residents to participate.”

Up to five seedlings will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be accompanied by instructions for storage, care and planting. These complimentary guides will also advise residents on choosing the right location on their property for planting, recommending spaces that could accommodate each respective tree’s full-growth.

“The timing for this giveaway couldn’t be more fitting with Arbor Day just around the corner,” said Monroe Council President Stephen Dalina. “We pride ourselves on the many sustainable programs that we offer here in Monroe. This is yet another example of how our Township is enabling residents to lead greener lives.”

The Tree Recovery Campaign is a joint effort forged by the New Jersey Forest Service, the New Jersey Soil Conservation Districts, Sustainable Jersey, the Arbor Day Foundation, BJ’s Wholesale Club, Canon and FedEx.

“By taking a seedling, residents can honor the spirit of Arbor Day, a national day of observance in which we plant a tree for future generations,” said Lucille DiPasquale, chairwoman of the Monroe Township Shade Tree Commission. “This is the last year we can anticipate the free seedlings with the campaign set to expire after 2018. Although the varieties can change annually, in the past, we’ve seen seedlings that range from dogwood to oak and maple. To prevent the roots from drying out, we’re directing residents to plant the seedlings within two days of pick up.”

Monroe Township will host four seedling distribution locations during the April 14 event: from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Department of Public Works, 76 Spotswood Gravel Hill Road, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at James Monroe Park, Dey Grove – Bergen Mills Road and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Monroe Township Library, 4 Municipal Plaza, and the Monroe Township Community Center, 120 Monmouth Road.

“This is my first year as the liaison to the Shade Tree Commission,” said Monroe Councilman Charlie Dipierro. “I want to commend the members for spearheading this campaign. This has been an incredibly commendable and active group in our community, ensuring proper planning, removal and care of ornamental trees and shrubs and offering expert advice to our residents on arbor-related projects.”

For further information, please contact the Shade Tree Commission at 732-521-4400 or visit the homepage of the municipality’s website at www.monroetwp.com.

All media inquiries may be directed to the Monroe Township’s Public Information Officer Maria Prato at 732-521-4400 or mprato@monroetwp.com.