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NEWS RELEASE

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Become a Tree Bud for Arbor Day

Arbor Day is on Friday, April 26, and there are many ways you can get involved and be a Norfolk Tree Bud.

One way is to contribute \$2 on your water bill to purchase, plant and care for trees in Norfolk. Just check the box on your water bill that says “Sign up to add \$2 charge to each water bill for trees.” Or you can even [sign up online!](#)

Another way is to plant a tree! In honor of their 100 year anniversary, Earl May Garden Centers are donating one shade tree to the community for every ten trees sold through the month of April!

“This is a great partnership for the community,” said Mayor Josh Moenning. “We always strive to increase tree plantings throughout the community. We thank Earl May for helping assist these efforts in a big way!”

Trees are an important part of the community. The proper selection and maintenance of trees can increase property values, reduce heating and cooling costs, and provide countless environmental benefits. To achieve the optimum benefit from the trees, homeowners should give careful thought to the selection, planting, and maintenance of their trees. There are some regulations that pertain to trees that can be found in Chapter 25 of the Norfolk City Code:

- Property owners are responsible for all trees on their property, in addition to trees on the adjacent terrace and alley
- No tree, other than a small tree with a mature height of 15 feet or less, should be planted within 10 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire
- Evergreen trees are not to be planted in the terrace area
- Trees are not to be planted closer than five feet to the back of the curb
- Trees and shrubs are not to be planted within 10 feet of a fire hydrant
- On corner lots, you cannot plant trees more than three feet higher than the curb level within 25 feet of the intersection of street lines so as not to obstruct the vision of traffic
- Trees must be maintained to provide eight feet of clearance over sidewalks, and 14 feet of clearance over any street or alley

- Trees must be maintained so they do not interfere with public utility or obstruct any traffic control device
- Trees on public property, including the terrace, should not be topped

For guidance on what trees are best to plant in the Norfolk area, see our [Tree Considerations list](#).

Planting the right tree for the right location is very important. Equally important is the care that is given to a tree as it grows. Timely pruning of a tree using proper pruning methods is a necessary part of proper tree development. Consider:

- Mulch with wood bark or chips, to retain moisture and prevent injury from mowers and trimmers.
- Prune so as to not leave a stub, but do not flush cut the limb.
- Water trees when the soil begins to dry. Do not over water.

For questions about Norfolk's Tree Regulations, contact the Health Official at 844-2046.

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