

## **Hunterdon County Celebrates the 147<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day With Ceremonial Tree Planting At Heron Glen**

Hunterdon County Freeholders, Shade Tree Commission members, and other County officials joined together to recognize the 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Arbor Day, by planting a red maple tree at a ceremony at the Heron Glen Golf Course, that also marked the County Shade Tree Commission's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbor Day Ceremony, on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Freeholder Director Suzanne Lagay said, "Our county is home to a diverse number of trees from the American Holly to the Flowering Dogwood. The beautiful, natural environment that we have all worked hard to preserve through open space preservation demonstrates our commitment to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

This year's ceremony is especially noteworthy as it is not only the 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Arbor Day, but also our Shade Tree Commission's 20<sup>th</sup> annual tree planting ceremony."

The Shade Tree Commission works with the Hunterdon County Department of Engineering and Public Works to help maintain and enhance the trees within County road rights-of way, as well as providing advice to the Division of Parks and Recreation on trees within parklands. The Shade Tree Commission, in conjunction with the County, also hosts the County's Annual Arbor Day Event at which every year a tree is planted in one of the many county owned facilities or park locations.

Shade Tree Commission Vice-Chairman Bill Wild said, "Planting a tree is a commitment to beautifying our community and ensuring future generations will benefit from the many uses of trees. They give us clean air and produce oxygen, provide firewood for heat and reduce topsoil erosion. We planted the Red Maple because of it's ability to grow up to two feet each year and because of the beautiful deep red leaves which enhance any landscape."

Joining Shade Tree Commission Vice-Chairman William Wild in the ceremonially planting of a red maple tree were Freeholder Director Suzanne Lagay, Freeholder Sue Soloway, County Clerk Mary Melfi, Sheriff Fred Brown, Surrogate Susan Hoffman, County Engineer Tom Mathews, Tim Ward the General Manager of Heron Glen Golf Course.