



Press Release For Immediate Distribution

Massachusetts Tree Wardens & Foresters Association
Since 1913...The Protection and Preservation of Trees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2008

Medford Tree Warden Recognized as Tree Warden of the Year

January 19, 2007, Sturbridge MA: The Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Forester's Association (MTWFA) presented its Seth Swift Memorial Tree Warden of the Year Award to Mr. Arthur 'Jesse' Jesselonis, Tree Warden for the City of Medford.

Mr. Jesselonis has been the City of Medford's Tree Warden for over 15 years. His stewardship of the community's trees has built an awareness in the city of the importance of trees as an environmental resource.

With Jesse's strong development of community and support of City and of the Highway Department he has been able to build a coalition with the DPW and the Mayor's office. When people think of trees in Medford they immediately think of Jesse.

Over the years Jesse has accomplished:

- Received a public grant to conduct a street tree inventory
- Collaboration with the Medford Planning Department to administer a GPS ready layer of the trees to support the City's infrastructure.
- Organizes an annual Arbor Day Event to support community awareness and support of the city's trees.
- Serves on the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters Association Executive Board for industry involvement and public support.
- Requests and receives grants for purchasing and planting of shade trees for the City of Medford.

Mr. Jesselonis was recognized by his peers at the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association for his commitment to community work and dedication as Tree Warden for the City of Medford.

The MTWFA will be holding an Arbor Day Celebration with a commemorative tree planting in honor of Jesse's Award on Wednesday, April 9, 2008. Specific details about the location of the planting will be announced by the end of March. Details may be obtained by contacting Donna Beston, Medford DPW Executive Assistant, at 781-393-2419.

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association is recognized as the nation's oldest urban and community tree protection organization, having been formed in 1913 for the preservation and protection of trees. The Tree Warden of the Year Award was presented to Mr. 'Jesse' Jesselonis by Past President, Thomas Brady and current President, Melissa LeVangie at the Associations' 95th Annual Meeting at the Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA.

Tree Wardens are municipal positions required under Massachusetts General Laws to protect public shade trees within the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth. For more information on the position of Tree Wardens, what they do, and information about the Association visit their website at www.masstreewardens.org.

Melissa LeVangie

President, Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association

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