

Assembly Resolution No. 411

BY: M. of A. Miller

COMMENDING the Village of New Hartford upon the occasion of being designated as a Tree City USA for the 40th consecutive year by the National Arbor Day Foundation

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those towns and villages of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate an enduring pursuit of excellence in local government in this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Village of New Hartford upon the occasion of being designated as a Tree City USA for the 40th consecutive year by the National Arbor Day Foundation, to be celebrated at an event on Wednesday, June 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The Tree City USA program recognizes the importance of an urban tree canopy and improved care of vital village trees; and

WHEREAS, The Village of New Hartford has once again achieved Tree City USA status by meeting the four core standards of sound urban forestry management: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget or at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1976, this four-step framework allows for communities to show environmental change is part of their communities' commitment; currently, all 50 states have Tree City programs which is the oldest of the Arbor Day Foundations' programs; and

WHEREAS, A community's tree planting is a living memorial to the citizens' concern for the quality of life; the trees we plant and care for today will increase property values, cool and beautify our cities, fight pollution, conserve energy, and give wildlife a home for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Trees are essential for life; they improve water quality by absorbing 25-35 percent of rainfall and controlling flooding better than a man-made system, restricting stormwater runoff from reaching our waterways, and filtering heavy metals and other pollutants; and

WHEREAS, Trees enhance air quality by lowering outdoor temperatures, which reduces energy consumption and the pollution it creates; capturing carbon emissions that lead to climate change, a single tree removes 22 pounds of carbon per year; and absorbing hundreds of thousands of metric tons of air pollution a year and replacing it with oxygen; and

WHEREAS, Trees build vibrant neighborhoods by inviting neighbors to

go outdoors and connect with one another; reducing instances of vandalism, graffiti and littering; lowering crime rates and acts of aggression; and growing a sense of community; and

WHEREAS, An effective community forestry program is an ongoing process of renewal and improvement, a program of tree planting and care which continues through the years; the Tree City USA award is an excellent indication that there is a solid foundation for that process of improvement; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon all citizens to recognize and applaud the efforts of local governments such as the Village of New Hartford which work tirelessly on behalf of protecting our natural surroundings for the benefit of present and future generations of New Yorkers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Village of New Hartford upon the occasion of being designated as a Tree City USA for the 40th consecutive year by the National Arbor Day Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Village of New Hartford.