

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, Arbor Day, begun in 1872 with the planting of more than one million trees in Nebraska, is observed in Florida each year on the third Friday in January, and

WHEREAS, the planting and nurturing of trees reduces erosion, cuts heating and cooling costs, moderates temperatures, cleans the air, produces oxygen and provides habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, trees are renewable resources, giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other products, and

WHEREAS, trees in our City increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community as a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and,

WHEREAS, St. Augustine has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for more than two decades, and is committed to continuing its tree planting program, and

WHEREAS, an example of our City's commitment is shown in the saving of hundreds of trees from the former Visitor Center parking lot, to be replanted around the new multimodal parking and orientation facility.

*NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of Saint Augustine, does hereby proclaim Friday, January 20, 2006 as **ARBOR DAY** in the City of St. Augustine, and urges all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, to support our City's urban forestry program, and to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Saint Augustine to be affixed this 20th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand six and the four hundred and fortieth year of the founding of Saint Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

George Gardner, MAYOR