

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **Local Kindergarten Students to Plant Trees During Arbor Day Event**

**Palmetto Bay Mayor Flinn also to sign U.S. Conference of Mayors  
Climate Protection Agreement Jan. 16 at Palmetto Bay Park**

**PALMETTO BAY, Fla.**, (Jan. 16, 2008) – Kindergarten students equipped with watering cans and kiddy-sized garden tools help celebrate Florida State's Arbor Day today at Palmetto Bay Park, with the planting of two trees donated by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The annual event, which Palmetto Bay officially adopted in January 2008, kicks off at 9 a.m.

Mayor Eugene P. Flinn also will take this opportunity to join more than 900 other "green-conscious" mayors from across the country by signing the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, urging the government to enact policies to reduce global warming and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

"Arbor Day is a good time to remember that the time is now for making outdoor lifestyle changes," said Mayor Flinn, "and by planting the right tree in the right place. Important planting choices will save water and we all must personally do our small part to conserve and stretch that precious water further."

The Village Arbor Day follows the State of Florida Arbor Day, the third Friday of each January. The event is consistent with Palmetto Bay's ongoing Village tree planting program, Flinn noted.

"Because Arbor Day is an annual event that is increasing in educational importance, it is appropriate that students of nearby Winhold Montessori School participate by helping us plant these two Tamarind (Lysiloma) trees," Mayor Flinn said. The students will be able to monitor the growth of their trees by looking across the park from their classrooms at 17555 So. Dixie Highway.

"We also are pleased that SFWMD Manager Ed Hernandez joins us today to emphasize the significant role trees play in our area's water conservation efforts," Flinn continued. "The costs to our native environment due to the ever-increasing presence of invasive non-native species deserve education and widespread awareness."

In addition, on Jan. 14 during a brief ceremony at Coral Reef Park, Josie Bober of the Village's Parks & Recreation department accepted a donation from the International Garden Club of Florida, to be used toward Arbor Day.

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*Incorporated in 2002, **The Village of Palmetto Bay** is a vibrant community of 25,000 residents nestled between Biscayne Bay and So. Dixie Highway, about 15 miles south of downtown Miami. The Village is governed by a five-member Council and operates under a Council-Manager form of government. Dubbed "The Village of Parks," Palmetto Bay offers an extensive system of attractive parks, unique recreational opportunities, and bay access. It also is home to several excellent public schools, and a robust commercial corridor along Dixie Highway offering a diverse range of restaurants, markets, and lodging. Specifically, the Village extends from the centerline of SW 136 St., south to the centerline of SW 184 St., expanding west to the centerline of South Dixie Highway (including the center island), and east to Biscayne Bay.*

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