

**TOWN OF CLAYTON  
PROCLAMATION - ARBOR DAY**

**WHEREAS**, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton, who would become Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland, proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for planting trees; and,

**WHEREAS**, the resulting holiday – Arbor Day – was first observed in that State with the planting of more than one million trees and is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

**WHEREAS**, trees are renewable resources that yield fruit and nuts for food and profit, wood for construction, fuel for warmth, paper products and a variety of other goods and materials; and

**WHEREAS**, trees intercept storm water, reduce runoff and erosion, clean air and water, produce oxygen, slow climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide, provide habitat for wildlife, and moderate air temperature; and

**WHEREAS**, when properly selected and tended appropriately, trees increase property values, enhance economic vitality of business districts, provide buffers from traffic and are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Clayton achieved Tree City, USA status in 2006 and continues to maintain and improve our urban forest by the planting of additional trees to enhance our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Arbor Day reminds us of the timeless observation by its founder, J. Sterling Morton, that “Each generation takes the earth as trustees;”

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED** by the Honorable Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Clayton, North Carolina, that Friday, March 20, 2015, be recognized as “**Arbor Day**” and we urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands. We encourage all citizens to plant trees to promote the well-being of this and future generations because a healthy urban forest can bring a sense of vibrancy or respite, adventure or calm and escape or contentment, amidst asphalt and concrete.

Duly proclaimed by the Clayton Town Council this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2015, while in regular session.



Jody L. McLeod,  
Mayor