



## Arbor Day 2004

11:00 AM, Wednesday, April 14th 2004  
Washington Elementary School and Park  
Vancouver, Washington

Master of Ceremonies: Duane Northrup, Chair  
Urban Forestry Commission

Host: Theresa David, Principal  
Washington Elementary School  
Vancouver School District

Colors presented by: American Legion

Pledge of Allegiance - "Student Led"

Star Spangled Banner

Violinist: Angela Svendsen

Don Graham - U.S Forest Service Retired

Tom Chapman - Washington Elementary Student 1931

Mayor Royce E. Pollard - Community Thank you

Followed by ...

Planting of the 2004 Arbor Day Tree  
The George Washington Tulip Poplar Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

***"What befalls the Earth befalls the People of the Earth.  
Humans did not weave the Web of Life.  
We are merely a strand in it.  
Whatever we do to the web of life, we also do to  
ourselves."***

-- Inspired by Chief Sealth (Seattle), 1854 - Cherished by  
many generations

Special Acknowledgment - Mike Iyall, Cowlitz Tribe

Tree planting & watering by Washington Students

Closing comments "This Tree" - Duane Northrup



**Tree & commemorative monument donated by:**

**Experience Zanzoona, Inc. - HRM Guru Padma  
Donais,  
Christmas Ambassador**

Commemorative Watering Cans painted by: Teresa  
Kuchler

Sponsored by: Special Acknowledgments:

Washington Elementary School Vancouver-Clark Parks  
& Recreation Department

Vancouver School District Wash. St. Dept. of Natural  
Resources

Clark Public Utilities Urban & Community Forestry

Experience Zanzoona

City of Vancouver - Urban Forestry Commission

We would like to thank the American Legion Color  
Guard, the men and women of our Armed Forces,  
and all the silent heroes that are with us today.

Thank you for coming!



**You are warmly and cordially invited to the**



# **Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebration**

**Washington Elementary School**

**Wednesday, April 14, 2004**

**11:00am**

**2908 S Street  
Vancouver, Washington  
98663**



**Sponsored by:  
Experience Zanzona, Inc.**



Photos of Tulip Poplars (full grown), leaves and bloom



(Click images to enlarge)

**April 5, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Arbor Day Celebration at Washington Elementary School**

*The City of Vancouver sent out a media advisory citywide on Friday, April 2, 2004, referring to the tree planting planned on Arbor Day at Washington School. What follows is the response of the official Rosemere Neighborhood Association.*

This tree planting has not been sponsored by the City of Vancouver as previously reported, but has been achieved through the spirit of neighborhood volunteerism.

On Arbor Day, April 14, 2004, the good friends and warm-hearted neighbors of the Rosemere Neighborhood will plant a historic tree that originated from George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, Virginia, on the shore of the Potomac River. This historic gathering is the culmination of planning since January of 2002, facilitated by the still-united, gregarious, and historically inquisitive Board of the Rosemere Neighborhood Association.

The 10-foot Tulip Poplar, a hand-cultivated seedling from a 219 year-old parent tree, was attained through a generous donation from Experience Zanzooona, Inc. A granite monument will also be provided by the donors to commemorate the tree planting, engraved with a quote inspired by Chief Sealth (Seattle) of the Pacific Northwest's Duwamish Tribe.

The still-united, patriotic, gregarious, and historically inquisitive Board of the Rosemere Neighborhood Association contacted J. Dean Norton, Director of Horticulture at the Mount Vernon Estate, to gather information about the historic parent tree which was planted circa 1785. The parent Tulip Poplar tree, planted under the direction of George Washington himself, now stands 145 feet tall with a trunk circumference of 14 feet. Mr. Norton has begun genetic research to "fingerprint" the DNA of the Mount Vernon historic trees, since George Washington was known to experiment with crops and new methods of cultivation. Only 13 live historic trees remain at Mount Vernon that were known to have been planted under the supervision of George Washington, including two Tulip Poplars.

The historic 10-foot tree being planted at Washington Elementary was grown from a hand-pollinated seed that was carefully harvested by the American Forests' Tree Nursery in Jacksonville, Florida. Each year, horticulturists from the National Arboretum manually pollinate each of the individual flowers on the parent trees, and have been doing so since 1989 to ensure that viable seedlings can be produced. Previous harvests of the George Washington Tulip Poplars by American Forests' Historic Tree Nursery have been planted at prestigious locations such as the Vice-President's residence of the U.S. Naval Observatory, and the Palace at Versailles, France.

The genetic research of the historic trees at Mount Vernon, Virginia, is vitally important since all of these trees are nearing the end of their expected life spans. Cuttings have been collected to produce genetically identical grafts, which will also be planted on the grounds of Mount Vernon. This work is being done to ensure that these trees can be preserved for future generations. The Historic Tulip Poplar being planted at Washington Elementary School this Arbor Day will help ensure this legacy. Mr. Norton concludes that Mount

Vernon's groundbreaking genetic research will be the future of our national trees, and "Who better to lead the way than the Father of Our Country, George Washington." The genetic data will be shared with scientists worldwide.

Late in 2001, the strong, vibrantly active Board of the Rosemere Neighborhood Association gathered research about another historic tree that was planted in the old Washington Elementary Schoolyard by the Masonic Lodge and the School Council in 1930. This tree was a direct descendent of the Washington Elm in Boston, Massachusetts, under which George Washington took command of the Continental Army. Dedicated on Arbor Day in 1930, a small twig from the parent tree was ceremoniously presented to George Harper, the Mayor of 'Washington School City,' part of what is now known as the Rosemere Neighborhood. The historic elm grew into a fine specimen and thrived for many years, but later fell victim to elm disease and was cut down in about 1992. Memory and records of this Historic Elm were lost, save for a few stories from school staff and local Freemasons.

In January of 2002, the strong, vibrantly active and gregarious Board of the Rosemere Neighborhood Association approached LSW Architects, the firm that was contracted to design and build the new Washington Elementary School. The architects enthusiastically supported Rosemere's idea to plant and rededicate a historic tree in honor of the new school scheduled to open in the fall of 2003. The strong, vibrantly active and gregarious Board of the Rosemere Neighborhood Association also contacted the Vancouver School District, and the plan to plant the historic tree was approved. The plan included the placement of a framed certificate of authenticity for the Heritage Tree to be hung inside the main school entrance, as well as a heritage monument that will be placed at the base of the tree. In order for the heritage tree to be listed on the national historic registry, the Washington Elementary Tulip Poplar must be planted on Arbor Day.

The planting ceremony for Washington Elementary was discussed at many Rosemere Neighborhood Association meetings, and was also published in several neighborhood newsletters from 2002 to 2003. The Association met with the architects and a representative from Vancouver/Clark Parks & Recreation and the planting location of the historic tree was detailed on the landscape blueprints for the new school.

Only one historic variety is available from Mount Vernon that was known to be planted by George Washington himself, and that was the Tulip Poplar. In typical fashion, the city "Powers-That-Be" tried to shortchange Rosemere and the children of Washington Elementary by substituting a non-pedigreed tree for the school. They claimed to have obtained a Magnolia from Mount Vernon, but could not provide a certificate of authenticity or any information about the parent tree that would be required in order to properly register the tree at the national level. Later an urban forester stepped forward to let us know that it was not a George Washington tree at all. The forester honestly informed us the tree was not even from Mount Vernon and that it was quite possibly not even a historic tree.

Several neighborhood newsletters and meeting notes reflect that the Rosemere Neighborhood Association tried for many months to plan this tree-planting project, working with the city to obtain a historic tree. As communications broke down with the city in December of 2003, the forester suggested the Rosemere Neighborhood Association

order and plant the tree in its own celebration.

The still-united, gregarious, and historically inquisitive Board of the Rosemere Neighborhood Association conducted all the research and made all the arrangements to procure a suitable tree from the nursery in Florida. Experience Zanzooona, Inc. privately donated more than \$1000 to fund the majority of this project as a gift for the school and the neighborhood. Experience Zanzooona, Inc. has generously donated to the students of Washington Elementary for the past 18 years, including the sponsorship of thousands of children and their families for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Family Program and back-to-school backpacks filled with school supplies. They have made other charitable contributions such as complete households of furniture to the many low-income families associated with the school.

A media advisory sent out by the City of Vancouver on April 2, 2004, states that Mayor Pollard will be "planting a tree that originated from Mt. Vernon, Virginia, home of George Washington" as part of the City's Official Arbor Day Celebration. No mention is made that volunteers and donors from Rosemere had spearheaded this event with an authentic tree, even though the "Powers-That-Be" were well aware of the many months of planning. The City of Vancouver did not include the neighbors of Rosemere in any of its announced plans to officiate over the planned Arbor Day Celebration at Washington Elementary School. Considering that the City officially "disenfranchised" Rosemere on January 12, 2004, wiping it from city maps, this is obviously an attempt to politicize this celebration. The mayor has no role in officiating at this ceremony.

This event was never intended to be political in nature.

The student body of Washington Elementary School will attend this historic celebration, and members of the community are welcome to observe. The celebration has been designed and will be conducted by neighborhood volunteers and their associates with respect, integrity, and patriotism that is due for such a time-honored tradition.

Personal invitations will be sent via special courier.

For more information call Guru Padma Donais, Official Christmas Ambassador and CEO of Experience Zanzooona, Inc., at (360) 608-0097, or Patricia Giles at (360) 993-5877.