

Arbor Day celebration plants seeds of environmental awareness

Over 100 area pre-school children participate in event at Susana Park

MARTINEZ, Calif. — Area pre-school children, educators and others participated in an Arbor Day celebration at Susana Park Wednesday, March 13. Marsha Davis, whose great-great grandfather was Sterling Morton's arborist, was also in attendance.

The children had the opportunity to plant flowers to take home, create their own tree, make craft flowers, find the age of the giant redwood, and have fun at the hands-on tables and within the park.

The City of Martinez has been recognized since 2003 as a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The idea for Arbor Day originally came from Nebraska, where the lack of trees there led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800s.

Among pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854 was J. Sterling Morton from Detroit. He and his wife were lovers of nature, and the home they established in Nebraska was quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers. Morton was a journalist and soon became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper. Given that forum, he spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees to an equally enthusiastic audience.

On Jan. 4, 1872, Morton first pro-



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