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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **For immediate release**

*March 3, 2005*

## **Grant funds planting of neighborhood trees**

03/15/2005

From staff reports

*From Rochester Post Bulletin*

Some homeowners in two Rochester subdivisions will be able to register for trees through the NeighborWoods program today at Rochester Community and Technical College's Heintz Center.

Eligible residents from the Kingsbury subdivision in northwest Rochester and the Rose Harbor area in southeast Rochester may register for the trees from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Rochester NeighborWoods received two grants totaling \$12,000 from the First Homes initiative of the Rochester Area Foundation and the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund to plant 144 trees in the two subdivisions.

Although the trees have a retail value of \$150 each, homeowners wishing to participate in the program pay only \$10 per tree. The trees are 8 feet tall and about an inch in diameter.

A tree-planting day is scheduled for April 23, rain or shine. Rochester NeighborWoods is organizing the tree-planting parties and will work with trained citizen foresters from each neighborhood. The citizen foresters will determine where the trees will be planted based on the interest of homeowners in planting and caring for their trees.

Citizen forester classes will be at the city foresters office from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. March 29-31. The goal is to train eight people from each neighborhood, but all city residents are invited to take the training and become a citizen forester for their neighborhood.

**- more -**

For more information or to register for classes, call 529-4150 or visit [www.rneighbors.org](http://www.rneighbors.org). Rochester NeighborWoods, which formed in 2004, is a partnership of the Rochester Neighborhood Resource Center, Rochester Public Utilities, Rochester Park and Recreation Department, Committee on Urban Design and the Environment, and Maier Forest and Tree.

For more information on the program, call Sean Allen of First Homes at 287-7117, Susan Waughtal of the Rochester Neighborhood Resource Center at 529-4150, or Jacob Ryg of the Park and Recreation office at 287-9191.