

Town of Odessa

PROCLAMATION

ARBOR DAY

WHEREAS, J. Sterling Mortin established the first Arbor Day on April 10, 1872 in his home state of Nebraska to urge Americans to stop misusing their natural resources and begin to practice conservation by planting trees; and

WHEREAS, the holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, lower our heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our cities increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, trees, whenever they are planted are a source of joy and spiritual renewal;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harvey C. Smith, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Odessa, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 24, 2026, as Arbor Day in the Town of Odessa, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands; and

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant and care for trees to gladden the heart and to promote the well being of this and future generations.

Harvey C. Smith, Jr., Mayor

Proclaimed this 6th day of April 2026