



NEWS RELEASE

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Wawa and Town working with neighbors to address tree removal

Wawa and the Town of Vienna have reached out to neighbors behind the convenience store's site under construction at 465 Maple Avenue W to address impacts resulting from last week's removal of trees, including three silver maples on adjacent Town-owned property.

To address the situation, Wawa has offered to plant 12-15 new trees not only in place of those removed from Town property but on the adjacent neighbor's property as well. These trees will be planted in the spring when conditions are more favorable.

Even though the Town trees removed November 21, the largest of which is estimated to have been about 60 years old, are marked "to remain" on the approved site plan, Wawa acted at the direction of the Town urban arborist to remove the trees.

In a preconstruction meeting a few weeks ago, the Town's arborist advised that, in his professional assessment, the trees on the Town's property between Wawa and the neighbors' property would be negatively impacted by construction activity and would almost certainly die within the next three years. He commented that the trees, which already showed signs of rot, decay, and disease, would need to be removed now or in the future.

"Both parties can accept some responsibility for removal of the unapproved trees," says Town Manager Mercury Payton, "and we're all very sorry for the impact this is having on Wawa's neighbors. I am certain that Wawa would not have removed those trees had it not been recommended by our urban arborist. I wish that he also had offered to assist Wawa with revising and resubmitting the site plan."

"We appreciate that the Town of Vienna recognizes our commitment to rectifying this situation and our resolve to work together to support the neighbors," says Lori Bruce, public relations manager for Wawa. "We remain committed to going above and beyond to be a good neighbor and a strong partner to this community."

The Town of Vienna is committed to sustainability as well as to being responsive to citizens. Vienna has been a Tree City USA for 17 years and has a very active, Council-appointed Conservation and Sustainability Commission. In addition, the Town's recently renovated community center has achieved gold-level LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) while the planned new police station is being designed to achieve LEED silver level.