

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION
AND SEEDLING GIVEAWAY IN JOPLIN**

JOPLIN, MO – March 31, 2017 – In recognition of Arbor Day, The Empire District Electric Company invites customers to receive a complimentary seedling on **Friday, April 7, 2017**. A variety of seedlings specifically selected for the Joplin area will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The City of Joplin and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will join Empire in recognizing the benefits trees provide our community with a short program at **11:00 a.m.** in Landreth Park. Seedlings will be given away immediately following the program through 3:00 p.m., or while supplies last. Empire foresters, along with representatives of the MDC and the Joplin Tree Board, will be on hand to provide information about the importance of planting the right tree in the right place. Empire arborists will hold demonstrations on proper planting, mulching, and pruning young trees. There will also be a demonstration on how to create a butterfly garden.

For the seventh consecutive year, the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Empire as a Tree Line USA Utility for demonstrating best practices in utility arboriculture. To receive this special designation, Empire follows quality tree care standards, provides annual worker training and participates in tree planting, public education, and tree-based energy conservation efforts.

For more information about Empire's vegetation management program and tree planting tips, visit us on the web at <http://www.empiredistrict.com/Vegetation>.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company is a subsidiary of Liberty Utilities Co. and headquarters for the Liberty Utilities Central Region, providing electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater service to nearly 340,000 customers across seven states. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit www.empiredistrict.com. For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit www.libertyutilities.com.

###

Contact:

Erica Wright
Corporate Communications
(417) 625-5180
ewright@empiredistrict.com