

# Harter Secrest & Emery donates money for 125 trees

## Law firm marks 125th anniversary

By **BENNETT LOUDON**

**H**arter Secrest & Emery LLP is celebrating its 125th anniversary with a gift of \$31,250 to pay for 125 new trees to be planted throughout the city of Rochester.

The donation, which includes enough money for one year of care for the trees, was presented to city officials Wednesday morning next to Lake Riley at Cobbs Hill Park, where the first five trees were planted.

Forty more trees will be planted at Cobbs Hill.

Craig S. Wittlin, managing partner of the firm, announced the gift and planted the first tree with Norman H. Jones, commissioner of Rochester's Department of Environmental Services.

"As a firm, and as individuals, our attorneys and professionals are firmly rooted in this community," Wittlin said. "So, in celebrating our 125th anniversary, we wanted to do something special for the city and the community that has been central to our growth — something that would live and grow and be enjoyed for generations to come."

"Rochester has, in a very real sense, provided the soil from which we have been able to grow and spread our branches over the last 125 years, and we hope to continue to grow well into the future," he said.

After Wittlin gave Jones a giant ceremonial check, attorneys from the law firm joined city workers to plant a total of six maple trees Wednesday.

"These trees will be a lasting reminder of Harter Secrest & Emery's generosity," Jones said. "When you plant a tree, you plant roots in the community and they spread. We thank you, we appreciate you. It says a lot about your commitment to the city."

Mayor Lovely A. Warren issued a proclamation establishing the day as Harter Secrest & Emery Day as recognition for the donation and the firm's historical commitment to the community.



Bennett Loudon

**Harter Secrest & Emery LLP donated \$31,250 to the city of Rochester Wednesday to pay for 125 trees to be planted throughout the city to mark the law firm's 125th anniversary. The donation was announced Wednesday morning at Cobb's Hill Park where six of the trees were planted by representatives of the city and the law firm, including (left to right): Brian Liberti, city forester; Anthony Orphe, Rochester director of buildings and parks; Craig S. Wittlin, managing partner of Harter Secrest & Emery; and Norman H. Jones, Department of Environmental Services commissioner.**

"The firm is a valued member of our city's legal and business community, and I'm thankful that they are giving back in such a meaningful way," Warren said in a news release.

"These trees will be planted in every corner of our city, beautifying our streets and increasing our quality of life, which helps us create more jobs, safer and more vibrant neighborhoods and better educational opportunities," she said.

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