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### **Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful Gala to Celebrate National NeighborWoods Month**

*Sponsored by The Home Depot Foundation*

**Metairie, La.** – October 1, 2006. Louisiana Urban Forest Council (LUFC) and Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful today announced that they will host the Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful Annual Gala. This event is one of more than 100 regreening efforts throughout the country being promoted during October, which has been declared National NeighborWoods Month by the national nonprofit, the Alliance for Community Trees (ACT). Louisiana Urban Forest Council and Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful is a member of ACT's NeighborWoods Network.

All volunteers are cordially invited to attend and enjoy this spectacular. Honorary chairs are State Senator Julie Quinn and Councilman John Young. Live music will be provided by Bobby Cure & the Summertime Blues. Tickets are \$50, and all income will go towards community improvement projects. The Louisiana Urban Forest Council and Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful are dedicated to recognizing, promoting, and improving the value and benefits of Louisiana's urban forest resource through management, education, research, training, and conservation.

LUFC and Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful's celebration will take place as follows:  
Oct 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Timberline Estates, Gretna.

"Having local organizations like Louisiana Urban Forest Council and Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful participate in National NeighborWoods Month helps us show the cumulative effect of a burgeoning urban and community forestry movement," said ACT Executive Director Alice Ewen Walker. Founded in 1993, the Alliance for Community Trees is a national coalition of 97 nonprofit organizations engaged in urban and community forestry. Its members are dedicated to grassroots community greening, public education, policymaking, job training, environmental design and other activities that support better urban forest stewardship.

Strategically planted trees contribute to energy conservation, improved children's health, increase property values, lower crime rates, save municipalities money through savings in stormwater management infrastructure, and encourage shoppers to linger longer. For example, children in neighborhoods with fewer trees have five times less lung function and higher school absences. Shaded streets require about 60% less sealant roadwork than unshaded streets. It is estimated that for every \$1 a city invests in trees, it receives up to \$3.74 in benefits.

NeighborWoods Month is sponsored through a generous grant from The Home Depot Foundation. "National NeighborWoods Month offers a unique opportunity for people to understand the contributions of trees to the health, beauty and livability of their communities," said Kelly Caffarelli, executive director of The Home Depot Foundation. "By partnering with ACT and local NeighborWoods organizations like Louisiana Urban Forest Council and Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful, The Foundation is able to further its goals of investing in the overall health and success of our communities."

#### **About The Home Depot Foundation**

The Home Depot Foundation was created in 2002 to further the community-building goals of The Home Depot by providing additional resources to assist nonprofit organizations in building affordable, efficient and healthy homes throughout the United States and Canada. The Home Depot Foundation administers grant-making programs in the areas of "Affordable Housing, Built Responsibly" and "Community Trees – Healthy Neighborhoods." Since its formation, The Home Depot Foundation has granted more than \$25 million to nonprofit and government organizations throughout North America. For more information, visit [homedepotfoundation.org](http://homedepotfoundation.org).

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