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Celebration set for arboretum in Newport

A Newport museum will become the fourth certified arboretum in the City by the Sea.

The National Museum of American Illustration on Bellevue Avenue will celebrate the certification at 11 a.m. Saturday. Four trees will be added to the Rhode Island Tree Council's register of culturally, historically and biologically notable trees.

The museum also will dedicate two memorial trees.

The free celebration will have live demonstrations by experts. Master gardeners from the University of Rhode Island will test soil; guests should bring 1 cup of soil for analysis. Crewmen from Largess Forestry, owned by Jamestown resident Matt Largess, will demonstrate proper planting and climbing techniques.

Saturday also will offer half-price admission to the museum's renowned art collection. Located in the historic Vernon Court mansion, it is the first national museum devoted exclusively to American illustration. The gallery boasts one of the largest Norman Rockwell collections in the world.

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