



Mayor Hayes and Bridgewater Shade Tree Board join with Assam Foundation for Tree Dedication Ceremony

On Saturday October 17th, Mayor Hayes and the Shade Tree Board were joined by the Assam Foundation at Chimney Rock Park for a tree dedication ceremony. The ceremony was to honor the

internationally known environmentalist and forester, Jadav Payeng as well as honor Hillside School's Roots and Shoots Program. Jadav Payeng is well known for his efforts in India by planting about 1400 acres of forest to prevent land erosion in the river island of Majuli in Assam, India. The Hillside School's Roots and Shoots program was honored for creating an outdoor classroom in the form of an amphitheater; meadows and trails were established by the student program and maintained at the school all assisting to extend learning beyond the four walls of the classroom.



Mayor Hayes presented a proclamation to Hillside Intermediate School and broke ground in honor of Jadav Payeng and dedicated the tree and plaque at Chimney Rock Park in his honor. He was joined by Niren Choudhury of the Assam Foundation, the Indian Consulate, local and state dignitaries, as well as residents. Along with the dedication, dancers came to the ceremony to perform traditional Indian dance.

Mayor Hayes stated this was a special event for the community. "I would like to thank Niren Choudhury for connecting with our community



with Jadav Payeng’s achievements.” Mayor Hayes also stated, “When Niren approached us, it was easy to say yes. Bridgewater is a leading community in the area for sustainability and addressing environmental issues. Bridgewater is a recognized Tree City and is Sustainable New Jersey Certified.” The Hillside Roots and Shoots program is an example of our community taking part in helping the environment.



This event was an opportunity to recognize the reforestation in Assam, India and reinforce the importance of being in harmony with our surroundings. Mayor Hayes would like to thank all who attended, the traditional performers who showed their talents as part of the ceremony, all the representatives from AFNA, and everyone who made the ceremony possible.

Pictured to the right are Upendra Chivukula-Commissioner of the NJ Board of Public Utilities, Dr. Binoy K. Bordoloi of AFNA, Chris Poulsen- Bridgewater Director of Health and Human Services, Niren Chourdury of AFNA, Shambhu Amitabh of the Indian Vice Consulate, Mayor Daniel J. Hayes, Jr., and Nripen Barua of AFNA



