

Inside Village Hall by Tammy LaBorde, Village Manager

In July of 2016, the Village Manager let the residents know that the Emerald Ash Borer was here. The Village has created a plan to address the ash trees that are in the Village right-of-way; however the plan does not address the ash trees that are on private property.

Removal of Trees

Hoppe Tree Service has recommended that the removal of ash trees in trafficked areas should follow these priorities: 1. A dead ash tree; 2. A Large structurally unsound ash tree in poor condition; and 3. A smaller ash tree in poor condition. A dead ash tree in natural areas need not be cut down as it is valuable for the wildlife habitat and leaving the dead tree standing will not further the spread of the emerald ash borer.

Residents can contract with an outside service to take care of the removal of the infected trees. For those residents who wish to remove their trees themselves, they can take the wood to the landfill where our refuse and recycling is taken which is the Orchard Ridge Landfill at W124 N9355 Boundary Road in Menomonee Falls, (262) 509-5628. They accept the infected wood and will charge a rate for disposal. The current rate (as of 9/21/18) is \$70 per ton plus fees with a \$30 minimum plus fees. The landfill accepts credit card, cash or check. The landfill is open Monday thru Friday 6:30am to 4:30pm and on Saturdays 7:00am to Noon.

For trees that are being removed that are located near a river or stream, if you do not remove or grind the tree stump you can remove the tree; however, for those residents that are looking to remove the tree and the stump near a river or stream, you will need to contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Water Regulation & Zoning Specialist – Joshua Wied at (262) 574-2132 so that he can determine if you will require a Wetland/Waterway Permit for the tree removal as its removal could potentially damage the stability of the embankment area.

Replanting Trees

Hoppe Tree service recommends that replanting of trees should include a diverse mixture of non-ash species. Diversity will help prevent massive population decline when disease breaks out. The planting should favor those species currently comprising less than 10% of the tree population on your property. Changing the climate makes trees more susceptible to disease. You should prioritize those species which are currently in the middle or northern edge of their range here in southeastern Wisconsin to help mitigate the stresses of climate change on newly planted trees.

Tree species to consider for replanting include Red Maple, Red Oak, Bur Oak, Swamp White Oak, Muscle wood/American Hornbeam, Kentucky coffee tree, Hophornbeam/Ironwood, Basswood, Bitternut/Yellowbud Hickory, Shagbark Hickory, Hackberry, Eastern Red Cedar or Eastern White Pine.

Additional Information

The Village website at www.riverhillswi.com has a number of articles and links to various websites that help to identify how to determine if your ash tree is infected as well as additional information on the subject. For more information on EAB please visit the following websites:

National Emerald Ash Borer website: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

WI DATCP Emerald Ash Borer website: <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/>

University of WI EAB website: <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/eab/>

Whatever you decide to do please make sure that you are taking all safety precautions in order to avoid injury. If you have any questions regarding the tree information or any other subject, please contact me at (414) 352-8213.

November Meeting Schedule 2018

14th Village Board 7:00 p.m. which includes Public Hearing for the 2019 Budget

19th Building Board 5:00p.m.

22/23 Village Hall closed for Thanksgiving