

TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING WEST LAFAYETTE GREENER



## Urban Leaves

### Tree News You Can Use

Vd. 4 No. 6  
November/December 2017

## WHERE WE HAVE BEEN AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

### West Lafayette Tree Friends in 2017

We are celebrating another busy and successful year of tree management along the streets of West Lafayette. Although we are still losing trees to the emerald ash borer, we continue to plant trees to replace those removed, as well as add new tree canopy as road projects finish in West Lafayette. **Due to your support, a few of our biggest achievements in 2017 include:**

- Were awarded Tree City USA for the 26th year in a row, a feat that would not be possible without the generous support of our donors and volunteers.
- Removed 112 infected ash trees.
- Planted 123 trees in public right-of-ways.
- Pruned 1,312 city street trees, totaling over 210 volunteer hours.
- Were awarded a tree planting grant for storm water relief by Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC).
- Were awarded a tree planting grant as part of "A Trail of Two Cities" joint-city (West Lafayette/Lafayette) tree planting project from the Community Urban Forestry program by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.
- Added 4 more Tribute Trees to our program, bringing our total to 25 tribute trees.  
For more on the program, visit our website at [www.wltreefriends.org/tribute-trees](http://www.wltreefriends.org/tribute-trees)
- Added 5 new varieties to our Tree Trial along Kalberer, bringing our total to 38 trees.



### Where we are going:

As we are coming out of the woods on ash tree removals next year, we will still be committed to replacing the tree canopy that we have lost due to emerald ash borer. For information on getting a replacement tree through our Operation Releaf program, or to get a tree along the right-of way at your home, contact city staff

Bryce Patz, Neighborhood Vitality of West Lafayette at [bpatz@wl.in.gov](mailto:bpatz@wl.in.gov) for more information. **With continued support, we look into 2018 to continue the growth of our urban forest by:**

- Replacing the tree canopy on Wilshire Street in Bar Barry Heights and in University Farm neighborhoods through Operation Releaf
- Pruning sessions in the spring and fall. Want to join? No Experience? No problem! Contact Bryce Patz for more information!
- Finishing "Trail of Two Cities" joint-city tree planting project along Happy Hollow and River Road
- Beginning observational study of our Tree Trial
- Focusing on educational outreach to our community through various events, such as farmers market, educational talks, and more!

Visit Our Website

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**To help us continue to provide West Lafayette with a quality urban forest**, please donate online with a credit card by going to [westlafayette.in.gov/support](http://westlafayette.in.gov/support) or by clicking on the Donate button below to donate by check or credit card through the postal mail.

Want to get involved in the fun? Come join us at our WLTF monthly meetings (next is December 12 in the WL Library at noon) and see what we are all about! Contact us at [chair@wltreefriends.org](mailto:chair@wltreefriends.org) or Bryce Patz, Neighborhood Vitality, at [bpatz@wl.in.gov](mailto:bpatz@wl.in.gov) more meeting times and event dates.



Meet a Tree Friend, Larry Swanson



Larry Swanson, a retiree from Deluxe Corporation, and his wife Lynette, regularly walk their dogs in the Arbor Chase neighborhood. On these walks, they noticed that tree branches were in the paths of pedestrians. They wanted to solve the problem, so Larry pursued a solution with the HOA board and Vice President Dennis Scholtt, which led to reaching out to Bryce Patz and the West Lafayette Tree Friends. After a few Arbor Chase residents, including Larry and Dennis, teamed up with the West Lafayette Tree Friends for some pruning, we tackled over 400 trees in Arbor Chase and gained a few new Tree Friend members along the way.

One of those new members is Larry, who decided to join the Tree Friends. He stated that he now feels more knowledgeable about how to accurately care for and prune trees based on his experience with the Tree Friends. He has been an active new member, volunteering as a rapid responder for the Emergency Tree Pruning Crew. Thank you, Larry, for being a problem-solver in our community and being a member of the West Lafayette Tree Friends. Welcome aboard!



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## Fall Colors Delight

Fall brings cooler weather and lovely tree color. Due to the dry autumn weather the tree colors will be less a blaze of glory and more a gradual and sporadic display of brilliance. The Sugar maple trees in Cumberland Park and the demonstration trees along Kalberer Road are of particular interest.

Here are two examples of variegated colors. A small Black Gum tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*, Jolly) on Kalberer near Amberleigh Village is an example of exceptional color and may range from yellow to orange to red or purple. Black Gum is also called Black Tupelo and provides a late spring food source for bees. A row of sugar maples along Cumberland Park provides another example of fall color.

[www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/blog/2017/10/05/autumn-leaves-what-influences-the-color/](http://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/blog/2017/10/05/autumn-leaves-what-influences-the-color/)



Black Gum tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*, Jolly)



Sugar Maples in Cumberland Park

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## Break Out the Tree Sweaters

There is no denying that winter is standing on the doorstep. Our beautiful urban forest is losing its foliage and going dormant. The trees are perfectly designed to tolerate the cold. However, if you walk around the area between Morton Community Center and the Purdue campus, you will see some trees wearing bright little sweaters. What is that about?

Late each fall, volunteers from the West Lafayette Tree Friends adorn the trees with handmade knitted or crocheted pieces and humorous little tags - to draw attention to the value of planting young trees in our city and to discourage vandalism to the trees. The tags say, for example, "Future Home of Chubby Squirrels" or "If you Get Drunk, Don't Break My Trunk." Although some tags have disappeared, we have had only one tree broken in the campus area since we started to dress them up four years ago. This is a significant improvement.

So as you dig out your parkas and mufflers, smile for a moment as you think that some of our trees are doing the same.



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## Upcoming Events

West Lafayette Tree Friends meeting: Noon, December 12, 2017, West Lafayette Public Library. All are Welcome!

Founders Day - A celebration to honor the founder of WLTF, Helen Lillich. To be announced in the January Urban Leaves issue

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**THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!**

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Find previous issues of *Urban Leaves* [here](#).

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