

**TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING WEST LAFAYETTE GREENER**



# Urban Leaves

*Tree News You Can Use*

**Vol. 5 No. 6  
November-December 2018**

## **PLANTERS, PRUNERS, PROTECTORS**



The mission statement of the WL Tree Friends is succinctly stated in the title - to be planters, pruners, and protectors of the street trees in West Lafayette, which are an important part of our urban forest. We work with the City of West Lafayette in carrying out our mission.

Once a year, in November, we make a direct appeal to tree lovers to donate to our work. We do a lot of hands-on work - such as pruning in the Fall and Spring, watering in the Summer - but when there are needs for new trees, we must have cash!

Contributions from you, your friends and neighbors have helped provide the funding for replacing ash trees in public places that were lost to the emerald ash borers. There are continued needs for new trees, both for replacing the lost trees, and extending the street tree presence.

Because of competition for young trees to replace the lost ash trees, the average cost of a young tree has risen nearly 33% over the past year. The present cost is

\$400.00.

You may have already received a letter in your mail asking for donations, with an envelope included. **If you would like to donate online, [click here](#).**

Thank you! Your donations make a difference!

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## 2018 FALL PRUNING COMPLETED



In October we concluded our fall pruning session - we pruned for 6 weeks, limbing-up young trees, to assure branches grow safely above roadways and sidewalks. During our 2018 spring and fall pruning sessions, we pruned 1,227 trees, removed 53 stakes, and we had a blast! Want to join the fun next year? No pruning experience? No problem! Contact us at [chair@wltreefriends.org](mailto:chair@wltreefriends.org) or [bpatz@wl.in.gov](mailto:bpatz@wl.in.gov).

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## SALUTING BRANCHES 2018

An awesome event full of spirit, spunk and satisfaction took place on September 19, 2018, when 97 volunteers assembled at the Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette. Certified arborists (with trucks, equipment, and skills) and members of the community united to clear dead trees and branches and plant 50 young trees in honor of Indiana's 50 MIA/POWS. WL Tree Friends were proud to participate in this annual event.







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## MEET A TREE FRIEND - NANCI FORNEY



Nanci Forney is a new member of the West Lafayette Tree Friends. Her energetic involvement started earlier this year; but since she retired from Krannert School of Business in May, her participation has blossomed - really branched out.

Nanci and her husband, Jim, moved to WL in 1988. For 17 years Nanci worked at the local Montessori School. She has a BS in early child elementary education from Florida State University and a Masters in Higher Education. Nanci likes to run and calls running her "guilty pleasure." Ethnic cooking is another personal pleasure. Nanci and Jim and sister-in-law, Diane, will expand their knowledge of eastern cuisine in early 2019 when they travel to India with good friends. We welcome Nanci as she brings high energy and good humor to the Tree Friends. And, Nanci, thanks for placing the new bright tree sweaters (this one knitted by Joanne Evers) that protect our young trees in and near the Village area.

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## KNIT, PURL, TAG - AND SAVE A TREE



According to Gretchen Ely, the West Lafayette Tree Friends' (WLTF) Tree Sweater Chairperson, the fall wrapping of at-risk, newly planted, street trees has been a huge success since its inception 6 years ago. Every year many young street trees in West Lafayette neighborhoods with high pedestrian and auto traffic experience damage by overzealous "party goers" and by cars. YES, motorists often collided with these young trees. Our colorful sweaters with clever signs alert pedestrians and motorists to respect and protect.

Volunteer knitters have taken up the task of knitting these brightly colored sweaters. If you would like to create some tree sweaters, contact Gretchen for some suggested guidelines ([gretchen618@gmail.com](mailto:gretchen618@gmail.com)).

You can find this year's Tree Sweaters along several streets in the Village area of West Lafayette.

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## **NEW SIGNS FOR TREE TRIAL ALONG KALBERER ROAD**

In partnership with the Purdue Arboretum, new signs are now displayed along the West Lafayette Tree Friends Tree Trial on Kalberer Road from the entrance to the community garden past Yeager Road. Our goal is to better educate residents on what species were selected, as well as why they are being put to the test! A large QR code is located on each sign, which will direct the user to the [Purdue Arboretum Explorer](#) web site, providing information about each species and cultivar. The webpage will also highlight where trees can be found on Purdue University's campus. To use the signs, follow these easy steps:



1. Using your phone's camera, center the QR code on your screen.

2. Depending on your phone you will be able to touch a link that will take you to that particular tree's page, where you can learn more about the cultivar.



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## WEATHER LORE: CAN ACORNS PREDICT A HARSH WINTER?

There is much weather lore predicting coming winter seasons: mild, snowy, or downright harsh. One of these natural forecasting tales is that a heavy acorn crop predicts a harsh winter. The idea is that if the acorn crop this year is plentiful, prepare for a snowy, cold winter ahead and more food for wildlife to feed from. If the crop is lighter, a milder winter is in store. This year, we are hearing of an exceptionally heavy acorn crop.

Scientifically speaking, there is no peer reviewed research that shows any correlation between acorn crop and weather. What causes some years to have a particularly heavy crop? Some oaks, produce acorns during one growing season. Other oaks, produce their acorn crop in two growing seasons. Other factors, such as late frost, can have a large impact on oaks that produce acorns one growing season, rather than those that produce a crop in two growing seasons. Genetics play an important role as well. Based on genetics and the other oaks nearby, acorn production can vary.

Will it be a harsh winter? We'll just have to wait and see.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 21	WL Farmers Market 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Tuesday, December 11	WL Tree Friends meeting - Everyone is welcome - Noon at the WL Public Library
Tuesday, January 8, 2019	WL Tree Friends meeting - Everyone is welcome - Noon at the WL Public Library
January 2019 - Day TBD	The Second Annual Lillich Lecture Mark your calendars now and watch for further information.

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## AND, FINALLY . . .



Imagine If Trees Gave Off  
Wifi Signals, We Would  
Be Planting So Many Trees  
And We'd Probably Save  
The Planet Too.



Too Bad They  
Only Produce The  
Oxygen We  
Breathe.



Donate

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... show your appreciation  
for someone and make a  
meaningful contribution to  
the health and beauty  
of West Lafayette!

Show your appreciation for someone  
and make a meaningful contribution  
to the health and beauty of West Lafayette!  
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