



Walnut Grove Homes Association

News in a Nutshell! October 2014

EAB Meeting

Your Homeowners Association held an information session on October 12, concerning the Emerald Ash Borer issue in Dane County. City of Madison Forester, Marla Eddy (meddy@cityofmadison.com) and local arborist, Jeff Olson of Arbor Systems, (www.arborsystemsllc.com) were our guest speakers who presented what the City has done, what the future plans are, and what you as a homeowner can do.

What has been done – The city has formed an EAB task force. EAB was first found at Warner Park area near East Gate Cinema three years ago, then found near the Femrite Park and Ride, and most recently located in Middleton near Park and Cooper Streets. The city "street trees" (those next to sidewalk or near curb) include 96,000 trees but Ash account for about 21,000 trees. Ash was selected because it is a native tree and the city was fighting Dutch Elm Disease and felt the Ash was a good choice. Unfortunately, one of the other city trees, Maple, may soon have an issue if the Asian Longhorned Beetle spreads to Madison. Its tree of choice is the Maple and it is currently located in Ohio, Canada and a small area in Illinois. The city started assessing the Ash trees and determined which trees were healthy, viable and larger than 10-inch in diameter. A tree is evaluated to be saved, will be treated. The city has already treated 4,000, with plans to treat 12,500. If the tree is marked with a yellow dot it is scheduled to be removed. Due to the Middleton infestation they treated trees from Middleton to Old Sauk Road to provide a barrier. They will treat from Old Sauk to Mineral Point Roads next year.

What the future holds – The city will continue to treat and remove trees next summer. Treatment includes drilling a very small hole at the base of the tree and injecting a chemical that kills the bug and the larva. A very small plug is then used to seal the tree. The chemical is effective for two years and will have to be done bi-annually. The city Ash "street trees" lifespan is estimated to be 40 years, however homeowners trees can live for 70 years. The city will only be treating the "street trees" and the Parks Department has set up an **Adopt a Tree Program**, for citizens to adopt Ash trees in the parks area. They are also asking citizens for adoption to replace trees as well. The website is www.madisonparksfoundation.org/eab-tree-replacement-donation/

What Homeowners can do – if you have an Ash tree on your property have your tree evaluated and graded. Estimates of treatment are \$10 - \$12 dollars per inch of the tree diameter. So a 20-inch tree is going to be \$200 or more per treatment, however, removal can be \$1,500 – 2,500 depending on size and location. The only treatment the city and our guest arborist recommend is Emamectin Benzoate, which requires an arborist. There are a few over-the-counter products that are not as effective and require soaking the soil, which has runoff to our lakes. If you have the tree cut down a local company Baraboo Woodworks is using the timber to make items out of the wood. Contact them if interested. Also Mark Clear, city alderperson attended the meeting to encourage us to contact Paul Skidmore. A city budget cost increase to fight the EAB through a proposed Forestry Fee added to your city/water/waste bill was voted down, by the Common Council including District 9 Alder Paul Skidmore, voting with the majority.

Visit us on the web at <http://www.walnutgrovemadison.org>

Meet Your Board

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President's Comments 10/23/14

Here's hoping that everyone is enjoying the beautiful fall weather in what one of our fellow neighbors recently referred to as "our cozy little retreat on the West Side." While one hopefully shares the commentator's general sentiment about the peaceful atmosphere of our neighborhood, the russets, reds and gold's certainly suggest the autumnal warmth and comfort of a marvelous patchwork quilt. May it linger long and may we all enjoy it as long as it lingers!

Since I last wrote, I am happy to report that the state of Walnut Grove has remained remarkably good and stable, notwithstanding some realized and anticipated physical changes in the area. Perhaps the most apparent of these are: the completion of all previously deferred electrical work, significant volunteer and contracted inroads into tree maintenance and invasive species mitigation, and several new tree plantings, on the Greenways; the City's resurfacing and traffic calming measures along Gammon Road, and the long-anticipated opening, on October 20th, of the Walnut Grove Park dog run, Mayor Soglin officiating, which was well-attended by many residents and visitors including District 9 Alder Paul Skidmore, new Madison Parks superintendent Eric Knepp, staff members from various City departments, and, of course, dozens of our furry friends and their owners. During the same period, word from local real estate and other financial industry sources, indicates a strong uptick in the housing market, reflected in rapid turnaround between listing and closing times, satisfying, sustained returns on home sales usually at or above asking prices, and an influx of new home-owners whose recognized backgrounds and interests strongly indicate their welcome addition to the neighborhood.

At the same time, the Walnut Grove Board of Directors and, especially the expanded Greenways Committee, have continued careful monitoring and reporting on the gradual but unavoidable spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a pernicious insect pest that unfortunately is threatening the popular ash tree population across the county, and which calls for a combination of careful planning and budgeting to keep mitigation efforts and costs at reasonable levels. In this, we have been aided by City Forester Marla Eddy and arborist Jeff Olson of our partner contractor firm, Arbor Systems, who graciously made themselves available to present at a recent, respectably-attended Sunday afternoon public information forum, organized and hosted by the Board and held at the attractive facility provided by neighbor Katherine Bidwell and our friends at Stark Company Realty. Also, at least one major house fire and several reported personal illness/injury calls, although tragic, I am happy to report resulted in contained losses and, fortunately, no fatalities – and overall response times for fire, police and EMT first responders have been reported as "excellent." Further, some criminal mischief and what have been referred officially to as nagging "crimes of opportunity," are being tracked closely by the Board, and the City, through Alders Skidmore and Clear, working with the Madison Police Department, and the Walnut Grove Homes Association and other neighborhood

groups continue to provide timely information and prudent tips for homeowners and residents – including a recent Neighborhood Safety Meeting.

As we move into the winter months, I do need to report on several bittersweet changes anticipated in the makeup of the WGHA Board of Directors. After a combined total years of service to the Walnut Grove community exceeding more than a decade, two stalwart members of the Board, our treasurer Tom Wall and Mary Kay Battaglia who has served the Board and neighborhood in multiple capacities, have decided to pursue other opportunities beyond their current terms. We are extremely grateful for their proven talents, dedication and contributions and we will greatly miss their regular presence, and prudent and thoughtful counsel. By the same token, as both Tom and Mary Kay have pointed out, the composition of the Board is and should be a fluid thing, and their moving on should be greeted as a tremendous opportunity for fresh ideas in the normal course of organizational change and renewal. Consequently, I would like here and now to offer a challenge and to extend an invitation for anyone and everyone interested in potentially serving on the Walnut Grove Homes Association Board of Directors to please state their intentions to me, or to any other member of the Board, in advance of our annual meeting anticipated for Sunday, January 25. From my perspective, we as a vital neighborhood association, enjoy a respected place in the local governance structure of Madison, have a fine track record of responsibly identifying and accomplishing goals and ideals that benefit our neighborhood and city, and, with the ongoing generous support of time and talent by our members, both new and more established, can expect to continue making Walnut Grove, as I have previously said, the place we're all proud to call "Home."



Dog Park is Open!

October 13th the Walnut Grove Dog Park opened to much fanfare with a dedication by our Mayor, Paul Slogin. New pet shop, Tabby & Jack's, located at University and Park provided free treats and were a great addition to the day's activities. It's the city's newest off-leash dog park and is slightly larger than an acre. To enjoy the park you must pay an annual fee of \$30. Applications are located at the park or can be found at www.cityofmadison.com/parks. Please be respectful of our neighbors living behind the park as well as follow the rules posted at the park. Let the Wagging begin!

Visit us on the web at <http://www.walnutgrovemadison.org>



Big Thank you to Dave and Katie Lyons for being the bonfire chairs this fall. It was a great Success!



Hear Ye, Hear Ye

Please Hear this call to all Walnut Grove Residents. We are seeking interested residents to join the Walnut Grove Board. Current positions open for our January meeting include treasurer and newsletter editor. Please consider getting involved to help keep this neighborhood a wonderful place to call home.

Save the Date

Our annual meeting will be held on January 25th. We look forward to having many residents attend this meeting to cover new and old issues. Time and location to be announced!

We see the Lights!



Be aware of our new and improved lights throughout the greenways. Gabe has worked hard to make them work and attractive, however we have had some recent vandalism to our new lights. We ask that you keep your eyes open and please be aware repairs to these lights are not cheap and increase our dues. Anyone caught vandalizing the property will be reported to authorities. Thanks for your attention to this issue.



Babysitting and Shoveling

Since our newsletter is published online and in the cloud, the Walnut Grove Board has been hesitant to list student's names, ages and phone numbers for publication. In the past when newsletters were printed we provided this information for the teenagers in the area as well as those needing their service. Therefore, we'd like to outline a new system. Any Walnut Grove resident interested in providing babysitting, shoveling, racking, etc, please email me at marybattaglia@tds.net with your abilities, age and a contact number and or email. Once I have a list formed, residents who reside in Walnut Grove and are in need of these services can

contact me and I will get this list to you. Happy shoveling!

