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



## Urban Leaves

*Tree News You Can Use*

Vol. 7 No. 1  
January-March 2020

**THANK YOU, TREE FRIENDS - YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!**



The West Lafayette Tree Friends is a group of dedicated volunteers who provide valuable services to the landscape of the city, our wonderful neighborhoods, and the people who call West Lafayette home. As the urban forester for the City of West Lafayette, I could not do what I do without this enthusiastic and passionate band of comrades. Tree Friends' tasks include pruning, planting, organizing events, creating newsletters, writing grants, fundraising, increasing awareness of how an urban forest fights the battle of our changing climate, and leading the community into a greener future. This year the group pruned 1367 trees in the public right of way, pulled nearly 100 tree stakes, and planted over 110 trees.



I want to thank the West Lafayette Tree Friends' 2019 co-chairs, Nanci Forney and Suman Harshvardhan, for all their work in leading the group through yet another successful year. It has always been a pleasure working with these two passionate

and caring volunteers who not only love the organization but also the community as a whole. To you both, thank you!

The New Year brings in a new chair for the Tree Friends. Dennis Schlott has stepped up to the challenge as chair, with Nanci Forney as vice-chair for 2020. Dennis has been a member of the Tree Friends for a little over a year, joining the group as an advocate for the Arbor Chase neighborhood, gathering volunteers to help prune over 1000 young street trees in the subdivision. We thank our Chair and Vice-Chair for their leadership, as we look forward to what 2020 has in store for the West Lafayette Tree Friends!

-- Bryce Patz, Neighborhood Vitality  
Greenspace Administrator  
City of West Lafayette

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## 2019 - WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

We are celebrating another busy and successful year of tree management along the streets of West Lafayette. The majority of ash trees that are not being treated have been removed within the right of way over the course of three years. We thank the West Lafayette Street and Sanitation Department for help in removing dying ash trees during these busy few years. The West Lafayette Tree Friends and city staff will continue to monitor the health of the remaining ash trees in the public right of way.

Thanks to the support of our donors and volunteers, a few of our biggest achievements in 2019 include the following:

- Were awarded Tree City USA for the 28th year in a row, a remarkable feat.
- Hosted the second Lillich Lecture in March.
- Removed 31 street trees.
- Planted 109 trees in public right-of-way.
- Pruned 1367 citystreet trees, totaling over 246 volunteer hours.
- Completed the "Trail of Two Cities," the Lafayette/West Lafayette joint tree planting project, made possible by the Community Urban Forestry grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.
- Added 6 more Tribute Trees to the Tribute Tree Program. (For more on the program, visit our website at



[www.wltreefriends.org/tribute-trees.](http://www.wltreefriends.org/tribute-trees.))

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## 2020 - WHERE WE ARE GOING

With continued support from our donors and volunteers, we look forward to 2020, continuing the growth of our West Lafayette urban forest through

- Operation Releaf, replacing the tree canopy from the removal of ash trees
- Removing the invasive Callery pear tree in West Lafayette's urban forest
- Increasing volunteer opportunities for our community members
- Pruning sessions in the spring and fall. Want to join? No Experience? No problem! Contact Bryce Patz ([bpatz@wl.in.gov](mailto:bpatz@wl.in.gov)) for more information!
- Increasing educational outreach through events such as Farmers Market, educational talks, Lillich Lectures, tree sweaters, and more.

With the removal of ash trees during the past several years, vacant spaces along our streets are begging for new street trees. However, not all trees are equal. The City and Tree Friends plant species that are on the City's approved street trees list, a collection of tree species known for their tolerance to urban sites, non-invasive, and which accommodate to our changing climate. To view the list, visit:

[https://www.westlafayette.in.gov/egov/documents/1508858135\\_81337.pdf](https://www.westlafayette.in.gov/egov/documents/1508858135_81337.pdf).

You might have noticed that the majority of maples, like the red or freeman maple, are not on the City's approved trees list. Why is that? The 2016 City inventory update indicated that over 30% of our urban forest were maples, 15% of that were red maples. The last tree species that reached those high levels were the ash trees.



Photo/Joe Boggs, Ohio State University

Maples are a preferred snack of the Asian longhorn beetle (pictured), along with birch, elm, willow, ash, and poplar. The Asian longhorn beetle is an insect native to Asia that burrows into the hardwood of a tree to feed, weakening the structure of the tree itself. The current treatment once a tree has been identified as infested, is eradication of the tree itself and all potential hosts in the area, a devastating blow to any urban forest. The beetle has been identified in Chicago and Cincinnati, putting the state of Indiana at high alert. Lowering the maple population is just one of many tactics to defend West Lafayette's urban forest from before this destructive insect finds its way to our city. To learn more about the Asian Longhorn Beetle, visit: <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2017/Q3/destructive-pests-check-your-trees-for-asian-long-horned-beetles.html>

## THANK YOU, DONORS - YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!

An urban forest includes all the trees in a community - along its streets and in yards and parks. Each tree is a major investment in making a community a better place to live. Trees not only cool our neighborhoods, increase property values, dampen noise and reduce energy usage; but they also provide shade for our pleasure and beauty to the landscape. Urban forests support tremendous biodiversity above and below ground.

Your donations support the WL urban forest. THANK YOU!





Photo/Ray Hennessy

## WE ALL NEED TREES

Our donations for 2019-2020 began in November 2019. [Click here](#) for a list of donors. To donate online, [click here](#), or send a check (made out to West Lafayette Tree Friends) to the city's Parks and Recreation Department 1200 North Salisbury Street, West Lafayette 47906. Attention: West Lafayette Tree Friends.

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## TREE SWEATERS



Eight years ago, West Lafayette Tree Friends started to use the Yarn Bombing strategy to prevent vandalism of young street trees in the WL Village area. Yarn Bombing had previously been used to focus attention on public art in New York City. In the Tree Friends' strategy, colorful knitted/crocheted sweaters' (12"x18" rectangles) are attached to young trees, and tags with amusing statements are clipped to the sweaters. The statements include "Don't break my trunk when you're drunk" or "Love me or leaf me alone."

The sweaters are attached to the street trees in late fall and removed in spring, and the project has been very successful. Comments about the brightly hued sweaters



and the quirky statements have been positive. Most importantly, vandalism to the trees has been reduced significantly. Thank you to Gretchen Ely and all the needle workers and volunteers involved in this creative project.

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## FOR THE KIDS STORY WALK®

West Lafayette Parks and Recreation, the West Lafayette Public Library, and Instant Copy of Lafayette have partnered to bring *StoryWalk®* to the Celery Bog Nature Area. *StoryWalk®* is an innovative and delightful way for children - and adults - to enjoy both reading and the great outdoors. Laminated pages from a picture book are attached to trees along a path at the Celery Bog Nature Area. Each season will bring a new reading experience. Look for the winter book *In the Snow: Who's Been Here?* by Lindsay Barrett George starting in January and staying up through the winter months. The self-guided tour begins at the kiosk outside the Lilly Nature Center. From there, find the tree with the #1 and begin a reading adventure!



The *StoryWalk®* Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

The Celery Bog Nature Area is a 195-acre natural wetland area with thriving wildlife, a Nature Center, 4.3 miles of paved trails and 2.5 miles of natural paths through the woods, savanna, and prairie. It is located at 1620 Lindberg Road, West Lafayette.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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|----------------------|--|
| Tuesday, February 11 | WL Tree Friends Monthly Meeting<br>Noon<br>Happy Hollow Complex<br>1200 North Salisbury, WL<br><br>Please join us! |
| Early March          | Third Annual Lillich Lecture<br>Look for information SOON by email   |
| Tuesday, March 10    | WL Tree Friends Monthly Meeting<br>Noon<br>Happy Hollow Complex<br>1200 North Salisbury, WL<br><br>Please join us! |
| Wednesday, April 22  | Earth Day  |
| Friday, April 24     | Arbor Day  |
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***He that plants trees loves others beside himself.***

Thomas Fuller (1654-1734)  
In *Gnomologia: Adages and Proverbs*, 1732

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West Lafayette Friends, 1200 N. Salisbury Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906

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