

Dear Residents,

We wanted to bring to your attention a recent development at the Bucky's site. The sewer contractor for the Bucky's development is progressing with their work effort. As part of their work, they were evaluating the pipe extension and reported that one of the ash trees on site is dead and should be removed. Please note that there are approximately thirteen trees remaining on site; several trees are ash trees and they are likely to succumb to Emerald Ash Borer. The City had a third party arborist from Kinnucan Tree Experts evaluate the tree and it was confirmed that that the ash tree is dead. At this time, the contractor is working with Bucky's to get the utility moved to avoid conflict with the tree, although the tree will need to be removed.

As a reminder, project updates are posted on the City's web site at [www.cityhpil.com/buckys](http://www.cityhpil.com/buckys). If you have any questions, please let us know. Thanks.

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The Director of Public Works and City Forester provided the additional information below based on your inquiries. We'll have this information posted on our web site for public information as well.

- **Tree Fencing:** The tree fencing has been inspected and is in place. To install the sewer connection, excavation through the right of way was required. Staff met the contractor on site prior to excavation. The location was adjusted in the field to preserve existing trees. It is anticipated that all trees will survive the process.
- **Ash Trees:** The City permitted for the removal of trees in the building footprint. There is not a code requirement to remove dead ash on private property unless they endanger the right of way. When the permit was reviewed, the trees were in fairly good condition. We were initially optimistic the trees might be able to be saved so they were included in preservation efforts. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has moved very quickly through the community and the region. Our intention was to give the trees a chance to avoid infection. In terms of planting replacement trees, upon substantial completion of the project, we will review the area again to identify locations where additional trees could be planted. The planting of a replacement tree will be requested.
- **Update Timeline/Landscape Plan:** We will ask the contractor for an updated timeline. The landscape plan is the same as the one presented at the last public meeting and is available online.
- **Tree Damage:** There was a section of bark knocked off of a private property tree. This damage is consistent with impact from a bucket or heavy object and is at a height that damage is not typically seen. Staff did not see the damage happen but would conclude it was from the installation of the tanks. The tree should recover from the damage sustained. The contractor has been notified and will be cited if the tree dies as a result of the injury.