



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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BERKELEY HEIGHTS TO CONTINUE TO TREAT ASH TREES

Berkeley Heights, NJ. – The threat of emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) to ash trees in New Jersey is growing with confirmed reports of its presence in Middlesex, Essex and Somerset counties, according to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). As a consequence, the DEP warns that even if emerald ash borer has not yet been detected in a county, all ash trees are considered to be at high risk of infestation within the next few years.

"This is a real threat," said Mayor Robert Woodruff, "If we wait until the insect has been detected in the Township, it will be too late. We are taking preventive action now to protect the trees."

Thanks to the Environmental Commission, the Township received a grant from the NJ Community Stewardship Incentive Program to selectively treat ash trees along the Township right of way. Berkeley Heights awarded a contract to Tamke Tree Experts of Bernards Township. In May and June Tamke representatives will continue inspecting and then selecting ash trees along the Township's right of way to treat for emerald ash borer.

"Not all ash trees along the right of way will be treated," said Environmental Commissioner Richard Leister. "Small ash trees will be removed and any large ash trees that may be compromised will be marked for removal."

Residents are also encouraged to treat ash trees on their own property. New Jersey has detailed information for homeowners, including how to identify if an ash tree is affected at <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/eabresources.html>.

"If you find signs of the beetle," said Mr. Leister, "call the Department of Agriculture at 609-406-6939."

The Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission was established to protect, develop or use natural resources, including water resources, located within the Township. The Environmental Commission is an advisory group with the responsibility to recommend plans and programs to the Planning Board for the development and use of open lands and wetlands. All the members volunteer their time on a variety of projects and tasks.

Keep up with other Environmental Commission activities on the Berkeley Heights
Environmental Commission Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/BerkeleyHeightsEnvironmentalCommission>.

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