

October 18, 2006

Emerald Ash Bore Update

The following information was received from Warren Goetsch, Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) today;

- On Tuesday, October 17, 2006, an IDA approved Contractor under the supervision of IDA personnel cut down and removed two infested ash trees from the Mathewson property on Harvest Lane in the Windings. These were the first two infested trees found in the State of Illinois earlier this summer. These trees were used by IDA on Wednesday, October 18, 2006 for contractor and arborist trainings.
- A reporter for an Aurora newspaper was on site during this tree cutting on Tuesday and interviewed an IDA representative. Subsequently this reporter developed an article that referred to “elm trees” instead of “ash trees” and inaccurately indicated that 2,800 trees in the Windings would be removed later this year. The final decision whether or not to remove ash trees in and around the Windings in order to eradicate the Emerald Ash Borer will not be made until the results of the “confirmation” survey (bark peeling) are in.
- This past Monday, IDA approved contractors began the “confirmation” survey (bark stripping) work on 260 trees located throughout Kane County including both the area within the EAB quarantine zone as well as the balance of the county. IDA anticipates finishing this work before an important EAB Team Management meeting scheduled for December 7, 2006.
- If any Windings residents desire to have infested ash trees removed from their properties, at their own expense, before IDA issues its final protocol, there is now has a process in place to enable this. Homeowners must call IDA at one of the phone numbers below and advise IDA of their home address and which company they want to hire to cut down the tree. IDA will check to make sure that this company is either already approved or they will contact the company to provide them with a compliance document that instructs them in the required actions to be taken in cutting down and disposing of ash trees. IDA also reserves the right to be present during the ash tree cutting and removal.

Illinois Department of Agriculture Contact Numbers

Des Plaines Office – 847/294-4343 (This office will move to DeKalb soon)

Springfield Office - 217/785-2427

Bill Miller, Windings HOA President