

# **Treeways**

**2018 - 3**

## **Emerald Ash Borer and Wildfires**

Late last winter emerald ash borer was confirmed in several ash trees in the City of Sunfish Lake a little west of the Sunfish Lake. This means that many local ash trees will be dying during the next 5-10 years. Ash trees tend to dry out and fall apart quite quickly once they die. In a few wetter areas of the City where ash trees dominate the tree population that means that a lot of dry combustible wood will become available fuel for potential wildfires.

The City's greatest concern about dead ash trees is safety. Dead ash trees within the City street ROW and near enough that they could drop branches or fall onto streets will be noted and removed. If these dead trees are on private property beyond the City ROW, then the property owner will be asked to remove them.

The City Forester is available to do a wildfire prevention or "Firewise" property evaluation for residents. Part of the evaluation looks at accessibility of the property to emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire engines. Other considerations may include recommending landscaping changes that reduce the likelihood that a wildfire could reach your home. The City Forester has "Firewise" literature available – just ask.

Over the history of the City there have been a couple burn pile fires or recreational fires that got out of control that required help from the Fire Department. I know of no injuries or building damage related to these events. Burning permits are available generally throughout the year except in the spring before green-up and in the fall when there are lots of dry leaves around. Once residents get burning permits they have the responsibility to do their burning activities safely.

Jim Naves  
Sunfish Lake City Forester  
612-803-9033  
jim@lstrees.com