



VGC...Garrison Village Way Tree Removal Project  
Sept 28 – Oct 2, 2020

Hello VGC Neighbors,

For your information, next week (if the contractor's schedule doesn't change), we will be removing a large number of diseased and dying trees along Garrison Village Way (GVW).

For those of you not familiar with the problem, we have been addressing the problem with very expensive, extensive pruning and branch pickup and yearly cleanup of windstorm damaged trees...but the problem is worsening year after year as the trees reach mature size, as evidenced by many trees with almost no leaves and/or diseased, curling, undersized leaves.

The Board asked volunteer Homeowners John & Yvonne Jaso, Tom Emmerson and Ray Goff to provide recommendations to the Board as to how to specifically address this problem. This volunteer group concluded:

- 1) That we simply have too many trees that are competing for sunlight. When the trees were planted beginning 22 years ago, they were planted too close together (15 to 20 feet) considering their eventual height and diameters when they reached maturity, and;
- 2) We evidently have several sub-species of Ash, with one type with a thick scaly bark showing the greatest incidence of inadequate leaf growth and susceptibility to disease, and;
- 3) The Emerald Ash Borer is devastating to Ash trees. It has taken years for this pest to advance from the east coast to Idaho...and arborists advise us that we should expect the insect in the WW area in the next few years. We recommend erring in the way of caution to take any steps we can, like the

current Ash tree removal project, to reduce the number of Ash trees and increase the number of non-Ash along GVW...or we will be confronted with a much larger, more expensive remediation problem if/when the EAB invades WW.

The group contrasted the unhealthy trees between Larch St and the western end of the Gazebo Circle with the healthy, well-formed and disease-free trees around the Clock Tower and lining the perimeter of the Nursing Home. The main difference is 30' to 40' centers between the healthy, well-formed trees surrounding the Clock Tower Circle vs a preponderance of 15' to 20' centers for the unhealthy trees from Larch St to the western end of the gazebo circle.

The Board approved the volunteer group's recommendation for the removal of 62 dying and diseased, predominantly Ash, trees along GVW from Larch St to the Clock Tower Circle...a reduction of 38% of the trees....and the replanting of 16 new non-Ash replacement trees, predominantly non-seed-producing Red Maple, to alter the tree spacing closer to the desired 30' minimum.

**The tree removal and stump-grinding work will be done by Town & Country Landscaping Monday September 28 – October 2. For safety reasons, the Board emphasizes that there will be no automobile, pedestrian, bicycle, motorcycle, skateboard, or other access to the immediate area of the tree-cutting and stump grinding operations. So, as the project proceeds along Garrison Village Way from Larch St toward the Clock Tower Circle, please anticipate street blockages of approximately 100 ft from each end of the tree-cutting and stump-grinding equipment. This will require that all traffic re-route around the work area. The major inconveniences will be near the beginning of the project, during which ingress/egress from/to Larch St will be blocked off...and near the end of the project, during which ingress/egress from/to the Clock Tower Circle will be blocked off.**

Our objective is to preserve the wonderful shade along GVW and the beautiful "arch" of red and yellow leaves that we experience each fall. We apologize in advance for any inconveniences as we pursue this very important project.

Sincerely,  
VGC MPMA Board of Directors

