Emerald Ash Borer Has Arrived in Summit Hill

By Sonja Mason — This is a follow-up to the "Emerald Ash Borer Ribbons Come to Summit Hill" article from The Summit, 2017.

Eight new trees will be planted on Grand between Grotto and Oakland this coming fall to replace ash trees infested by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The EAB is an insect that attacks and kills ash trees. The infested trees and stumps were removed earlier this June. The USDA has called EAB "the most destructive invasive forest insect ever to have invaded North America."

The actual invasive beetle was first discovered in the Saint Paul area in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood in 2009, though it is believed the beetle arrived as early as 2004. Fourteen years into the infestation, the situation in St. Paul is rated as "critical," and the pest — as well as scheduled removals of ash trees — have come to District 16. While diseased trees may still appear healthy to a layperson, once infected they typically die within three to five years and must be removed before they become hazardous. The City is only removing trees that have been confirmed as infested.

Summit Hill has the third-highest canopy cover of any district in the city at 40.3% of land area and has more than 400 park and boulevard ash trees. Over 150 of these met the Forestry Department’s criteria for care and have been receiving ongoing treatment with insecticide. In the right conditions, treatment has shown it can prevent infection in around 90% of treated trees for two to three years. Roughly 250 boulevard ash trees in Summit Hill did not meet the criteria for treatment, and are scheduled to be removed by the Parks & Recreation Department in the next 5 years.

Those trees will be replaced. A variety of species will be selected so as to increase diversity of species throughout the city. Species such as oak, elm, hackberry, honeylocust, river birch, Kentucky coffeetree, ginkgo, sycamore, crabapple, serviceberry, and Japanese tree lilac would be considered for planting. D16 has a high percentage of maple trees, so maples are not likely to be selected.

The Forestry department’s management efforts have succeeded in slowing the population growth of EAB, allowing more time to manage the urban tree canopy, as well as for researchers to learn more about the disease. Recent very cold winters have likely also helped slow the progress of the disease locally but the situation in St. Paul remains critical, and is more so than in other local communities. St. Paul was the first discovery point for EAB in all Minnesota; the infestation has had longer to develop here. Management has been more challenging because of the immense size of St. Paul’s tree canopy. The overall focus of the EAB plan and the Forestry department has been to keep our urban forest — which covers 32.5% of the total land area of St. Paul — healthy, diverse, and green.

Save the Date!
SHA 2019 ANNUAL MEETING — WED., OCT. 23, 7:00PM

The 2019 SHA annual meeting will be held Wednesday, October 23, 7:00pm at Mt. Zion Temple, located at 1300 Summit Ave., St. Paul, 55105. Come meet the candidates for vacancies on the SHA board of directors and elect new voices to our board. Ward 2 City Council Member Rebecca Noecker is scheduled to attend. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Parking is available on Summit Avenue as well as in the parking lot adjacent to Kowalski’s. All residents of District 16 are eligible to vote. Bring your ID, lease, a current bill, or bank statement to verify your residency.

If you are interested in running for one of the vacancies on the board, apply online at SummitHillAssociation.org/become-a-board-member. Applications are due by 5:00pm, Wednesday, October 16. If you’d like more information on the requirements to become a board member, go to the website or contact Monica Haas at the SHA office at 612.222.1222.
In Praise of Fairy Gardens and Fairy Gardeners

By Sonja Mason

There is a saying that fences make good neighbors, and it may well be true, but so too do fairy gardens.

When my kids were lower to the ground than they are now, we would go on many slow walks around our neighborhood. And being lower to the ground as well as having not yet learned the importance of destination over journey, they noticed more and different things than I. It was they who first discovered a mini fairy garden on our route to Walgreens. It was tucked into a tree stump in front of one of the ubiquitous Grand Avenue brick apartment buildings: a fairy figurine and a “stream” made from small glass tiles. As my children grew, so too did that fairy garden. There soon appeared a second fairy garden in the corner of the yard near the sidewalk, complete with homemade houses with pinecone shingles; then a satellite fairy village close to the neighbor’s wall.

Suddenly, running out of milk meant a new adventure! What would we find in the fairy garden today? And finally one day we met the actual fairy gardener, a woman named Paula. We complimented her fairy garden and got to talking over the proverbial fence. The next day, we found a care package on our door — the fixings to start our own fairy garden.

And so we did. Our fairy garden then inspired another family on the block to build their own, tucked away under some yews where only children would likely find it. To my kids’ great delight, one day we came home to find a parcel with two figurines in it — little boy and little girl fairies. It was a gift from two neighborhood dogs (they left a note!) whose owner walked them by our fairy garden on evening excursions.

What is it about fairy gardens? No one is going to argue that fairy gardens will solve the world’s (or even our city’s) great problems. They are just temporary follies, little pockets of whimsy. They will not save the ash trees, end potholes, or bridge the garbage divide, but they do make us slow down and smile. They increase our sense of connection to our neighborhood. They make walking around outside more fun and give us an excuse to stop and chat with our neighbors.

Paula traditionally took in most of her fairy garden every fall, and waited to install the most intricate parts until after Grand Old Day (just in case). But this year, when the snow melted, even the stream and the large items were gone. After Grand Old Day, no fairies appeared. Grass seed sprouted where the fairy gardens once bloomed. Paula must have moved over the winter. We miss her, and her fairy gardens, but we are so glad that we met her and that she chose to make Summit Hill a more magical place.

Do you have a fairy garden you love? Please send photos to us to include on our Facebook page.
Help Make the 2020 Summit Hill House Tour the Best One Ever!

The bi-annual Summit Hill House Tour is one of St. Paul’s most beloved traditions. Every two years, St. Paul residents and visitors have the chance to tour homes along and near the city’s historic Summit Avenue. Whether you like your houses historic or hip, classic or trendy, the Summit Hill House Tour has something for everyone.

The 2020 House Tour has openings for both a chairperson and for volunteers.

The House Tour chairperson works with homeowners, local businesses and members of the Summit Hill Association to plan and prepare the tour. This is a rare opportunity to take a lead role in a St. Paul institution. We are looking for an outgoing, energetic and interested individual with experience or interest in event planning. Apply to be chairperson for our next House Tour in fall of 2020 and help make this tour a grand success!

Interested in behind-the-scenes access to the Summit Hill House Tour? Serve as a volunteer! We need volunteers for a variety of day-of activities, from registration to refreshment sales. Volunteers get a wide range of benefits, including: front of the line access to each property on the tour, a free ticket to go on the tour before or after your shift, and an invitation to the volunteer-only after party with food and beverages.

Summit Hill Association/District Council 12 Bylaws Update

SHA’s Bylaws have not undergone a thorough revision in over 10 years — it’s time for an update! SHA’s Board of Directors has been working with outside counsel specializing in non-profit community organizations to revise SHA’s Bylaws. The goal of this revision process is to (i) bring SHA’s Bylaws in compliance with current state laws and regulations for non-profit governance and (ii) revise the Bylaws to fit SHA’s evolving needs as a community organization.

Pursuant to SHA’s current Bylaws, any changes to SHA’s Bylaws require approval by SHA’s general membership at SHA’s annual meeting, which will be held this year on October 23, 2019. Additional information regarding SHA’s proposed Bylaws revision will be posted on the SHA website, as well as SHA’s Facebook page, by September 23.

Follow us on Facebook to stay on top of the latest news

Facebook.com/SummitHillAssociation

Please stay tuned!

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Check out the SHA web site for current info: SummitHillAssociation.org
SHA President’s Message

The Summit Hill Association is a year-round organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the neighborhood through a variety of projects and programs. From community meetings to book club discussions, and from our bi-annual House Tour to this very newsletter, the work we do all year long is made possible by the generosity of you and your neighbors.

There are many ways to get involved and help contribute. For some, volunteering is the most rewarding. For those who want to make a difference but might not have the time in their schedules to participate on a Committee or volunteer at an event, making a donation to SHA can be the right fit.

Making a tax-deductible donation to SHA is quick and easy, and you have lots of options to choose from:

- **Use a check or your credit card.** Contributions of all sizes have a direct and positive impact on SHA. Send in your check, made out to “Summit Hill Association,” using your own envelope or a pre-printed one from the table just outside the SHA office. Visit SummitHillAssociation.org/donate to make your gift online.

- **Select SHA when you shop on AmazonSmile.** If you’re not able to find what you need when shopping on Grand Avenue, consider using AmazonSmile to complete your shopping. When you choose SHA as your charity, Amazon will donate a portion of each of your orders to us, at no cost to you!

- **IRA charitable roll-over.** If you are 70½ years or older, you can make a donation directly from your IRA to SHA, a 501(c)(3) organization. Your IRA administrator will be able to help you make a direct qualified distribution.

- **Employer matching.** Many companies match charitable donations made by their employees, and some even match contributions from spouses and retirees. The easiest way to find out if your employer will match your donation to SHA is to ask your human resources representative and request a matching gift form.

- **Give to the Max Day.** Minnesota’s annual day of philanthropy is Thursday, November 14. It’s still a few months away, so set a reminder now to include SHA on your list of organizations to support on Give to the Max Day. However you choose to support SHA, your involvement makes a difference. What you give stays here in our community and allows SHA to make a difference where you live and work.

If you have any questions about making a gift, please reach out to us at info@SummitHillAssociation.org or 651.222.1222.

2019 SHA Board Members

Hayden Howland, President
Peter Rhoades, Vice President
Abhi Andley, Treasurer
Denise Aldrich, Chair, Zoning & Land Use
Bridget Allan Ales, Chair, Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Calming
David Kratz, Chair, Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan
Mark Lindley, Chair, Communications & Outreach
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Looking to promote your business in Summit Hill?
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Contact Monica at (651) 222-1222 for details.

Check out the SHA web site for current info: SummitHillAssociation.org
Calling for Nominations for the Good Neighbor Award

What makes Summit Hill such a special place to live and work? The quiet streets? Sure. The great restaurants and shops? Of course. But more than anything else, it’s the people who make Summit Hill a wonderful neighborhood. And the Summit Hill Association is now inviting you to recognize one of your neighbors via the 2019 Good Neighbor Award.

Created to recognize neighbors (both individuals and organizations) who have taken the time to give back to the Summit Hill community, the award is given at SHA’s Annual Meeting held every fall. Small acts of kindness can be the most important and deserve to be celebrated. Have you noticed someone who is always the first to bring chicken soup to neighbors who are under the weather? After a snowstorm, does your neighbor clear the sidewalks for anyone who may need a little more help? Is there a business or organization that continuously works to make Summit Hill a great place to live? We want to hear about the good deeds that create a sense of togetherness and wellbeing in our community!

Please submit your nominations to info@SummitHillAssociation.org by Monday, September 30.

How to contact the Summit Hill Association

Reach our Executive Director, Monica Haas, at director@SummitHillAssociation.org
Email us at info@SummitHillAssociation.org
Call us during office hours at (651) 222-1222

Subscribe to our monthly electronic newsletter at SummitHillAssociation.org
Find us on Facebook at Facebook.com/SummitHillAssociation

Have a photo you’d like to share?

We are seeking photos of the neighborhood for use in our printed newsletter and website. If you have an image you’d like us to use, please email it to us at info@SummitHillAssociation.org

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See What’s New on the Avenue!

Anyone who’s walked along Grand Avenue recently is sure to have noticed the new businesses that have opened their doors over the past few months. We would like to welcome just a few of the new businesses who have made Summit Hill their home.

Looking for a top-quality leather briefcase, handbag, wallet or suitcase? Then stop by J.W. Huime. The manufacturer of fine leather goods, which was born in Minnesota more than a century ago, opened its 880-square-foot flagship store at 867 Grand.

Summer may be coming to a close, but it’s never too late in the year to stop by for an ice cream treat. If that’s what you’re looking for, head to Treats at 770 Grand. Along with bubble teas and lattes, Treats offers a unique desert, a blend of ice cream and cereal that combines smooth and creamy with crunchy and sweet. Bibelot may be gone, but Good Things has arrived! The trendy, popular gift shop has brought its collection of jewelry, clothing, books and other eclectic fare to 1082 Grand Avenue.

Businesses opening soon on the Avenue include CRISP & GREEN and a Chase Bank Branch. CRISP & GREEN is a wellness-focused restaurant with a menu that features seasonal salads, grain bowls, and smoothies made with fresh and local ingredients. The Chase Bank branch will be the bank’s first retail location in Saint Paul.

SHA Participates in the Saint Paul Innovation Fund

District Councils work closely with our neighbors to make our neighborhood friendly and welcoming to all. In order to do that, we need to get to know our neighbors, and make sure that all are represented. Over the next year, we will be hosting several events.

Our very popular book club starts up again on Wednesday, October 2. We will be discussing “A Good Time for the Truth,” a series of short essays regarding race in Minnesota. In this provocative book, sixteen of Minnesota’s best writers provide a range of perspectives on what it is like to live as a person of color in Minnesota. We will meet at 7:00pm at the Linwood Recreation Center (860 St. Clair Ave.), and a pizza dinner will be provided.

Are you a renter? Join us for our renter’s and landlord’s seminar on the rights and responsibilities of renting in late October.

If you are interested in learning more about Restrictive Covenants, we will be providing a speaker series and more information this Fall.

We also have plans for a public art piece, a food truck festival, and much more. Join our newsletter mailing list via our website to find out more information.
Summit Hill Residents Greet the Stars on National Night Out

Anyone strolling the streets of Summit Hill on August 6 would likely have seen groups of neighbors enjoying block parties, grilling burgers, playing games, and chatting with law enforcement officers as part of the annual National Night Out.

This year’s National Night Out 2019 broke records here in St. Paul — a city that routinely lands in the top 10 cities in America when it comes to celebrating the event. In Summit Hill alone, more than three dozen events were held that night.

It’s never too early to begin planning for next year! The 2020 National Night Out will be held on August 4. You can find more information at www.stpaul.gov.

Lunds and Byerlys Update

Since the March community meeting, Lunds & Byerlys has continued to make progress on its plans to open a business in Summit Hill.

The grocer is currently seeking tenants interested in short-term leases as it works through the details of the project. Current plans call for a mixed-use development that includes a Lunds & Byerlys, four stories of housing, and two levels of underground parking.

While timing cannot be pinpointed, the grocer currently believes it will take anywhere from 18 to 24 months to complete the project.

2019 Annual Meeting will be held
Wednesday, October 23
7:00pm
Mt. Zion Temple, Summit Ave.

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