

# Princeton prepares for Emerald Ash Borer awareness project

By Alyssa Paulsen

In the next few weeks, Princeton residents and visitors to the area will begin to see green ribbons tied around many trees in Princeton. These trees are not being cut down, but rather the green ribbons strive to raise awareness of a tiny bug causing a major issue in the surrounding counties of Marquette and Fond du Lac.

The Emerald Ash Borer beetle is a small (about a half an inch) invasive species native to China and Eastern Asia that according to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, more than likely arrived in the United States inside wood packing materials probably used to ship consumer goods, auto parts, and other products. Their first location of arrival was southeastern Michigan, and scientists believe the beetle had been present for up to 12 years before it was detected in summer 2002.

While currently not a detected issue in Green Lake County, the City of Princeton has partnered with Gold Sands



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**PRINCETON CITY ADMINISTRATOR Mary Lou Neubauer (left) and Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Krista Kamke show what banded ash trees will look like throughout Princeton. The trees are not being cut down, but rather the banding is to raise awareness of trees that could potentially be affected by the Emerald Ash Borer beetles.**

Resource Conservation & Development Council and Green Lake County/Marquette County Regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator Krista Kamke to raise awareness of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) with the Green Ribbon Campaign due to Green Lake County being nestled in

between quarantined counties on three sides.

Fond du Lac County is quarantined for EAB and just last summer, Montello in Marquette County was quarantined.

SEE ASH BORER, PAGE 20

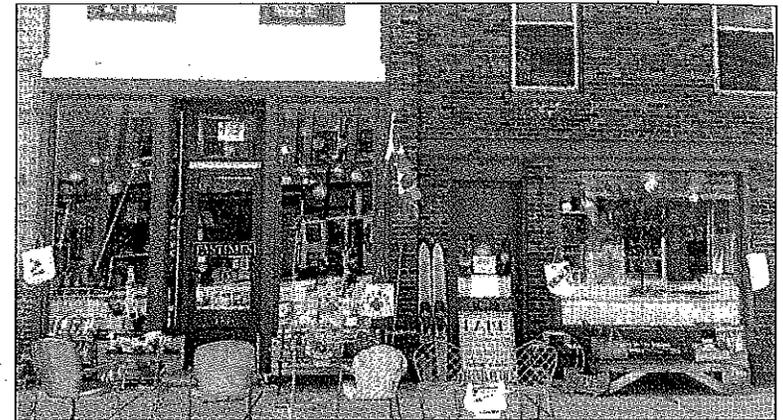


PHOTO SUBMITTED TO PRINCETON TIMES-REPUBLIC

**PASTIMES IN DOWNTOWN PRINCETON will be reopening for the season and will featuring books, décor, vintage, toys, and so much more.**

## Pastimes reopens for 16th season

Pastimes in downtown Princeton will be returning for its 16th season on Friday, April 15. Max, the retail shop's Cocker Spaniel, is eager to greet all his old friends and make many new ones.

Pastimes continues to boast 10 rooms on two floors stocked with customer favorites and some newly-added merchandise, including:

- Hundreds of new and used adult and children's books
- Many wood and tin signs
- More than 40 new designs of the store's popular flour sack towels
- Collections of Willirae, Lori Mitchell, and Bethany Lowe
- Lake, cabin, garden, and Americana-themed décor

- New displays of wine, pet, and bike-themed merchandise
- Tons of vintage, including all types of linens, Pyrex glassware, dishes, and children's books and toys

Visit the business' sale room, where items are at least 50% off, and look for markdowns throughout the store.

Pastimes is located at 511 W. Water St. in downtown Princeton. Until Memorial Day, store hours are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Store hours will expand in summer. Call (608) 921-1739 for additional information. The staff at Pastimes is looking forward to renewing friendships and starting new ones during their 16th season in 2016.

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# Ash Borer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The campaign will consist of tying green ribbons around ash trees that can be vulnerable to EAB, including white, black, and green ash trees—all found in Princeton.

City Administrator Mary Lou Neubauer indicated there are 182 ash trees in public areas in Princeton, with some having come down since this number was tallied.

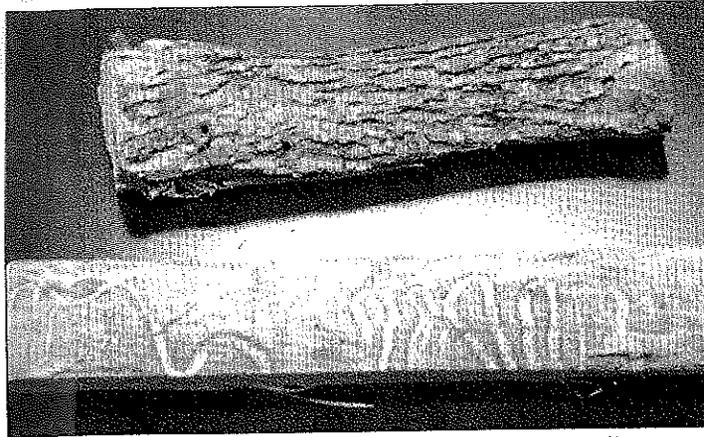
Kamke went into detail on why this invasive species, especially their larvae, is such a detriment to ash tree populations.

"They impede the ability of the tree to transport nutrients and water up to the top of the crown of the tree, which is why the top of the crown starts to die," explained Kamke, also explaining that while the larvae don't bury very deep, they are in the inner bark right under the outer bark, which is "the most living part of the tree. Right under the bark is where this



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**KRISTA HAMILTON, entomologist with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture shows that the Emerald Ash Borer beetle may be small but can cause a lot of destruction.**



PRINCETON TIMES-REPUBLIC PHOTO

**THE INVASIVE Emerald Ash Borer beetle has been recently found in Fond du Lac and Marquette counties, leading Green Lake County to raise awareness of the issue and destruction the beetles cause to ash trees. The outer bark shows two circles with dots indicating where Emerald Ash Borers have chewed out of the trees, while the bottom, inner bark shows the tracks left behind by the beetle larvae.**

transport happens."

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture's pamphlet on EAB explained that it is the tunneling and feeding of the larvae that will eventually kill the tree. The larvae will exit the trees in May as adults, leaving behind a D-shaped exit hole in the outer bark of the tree.

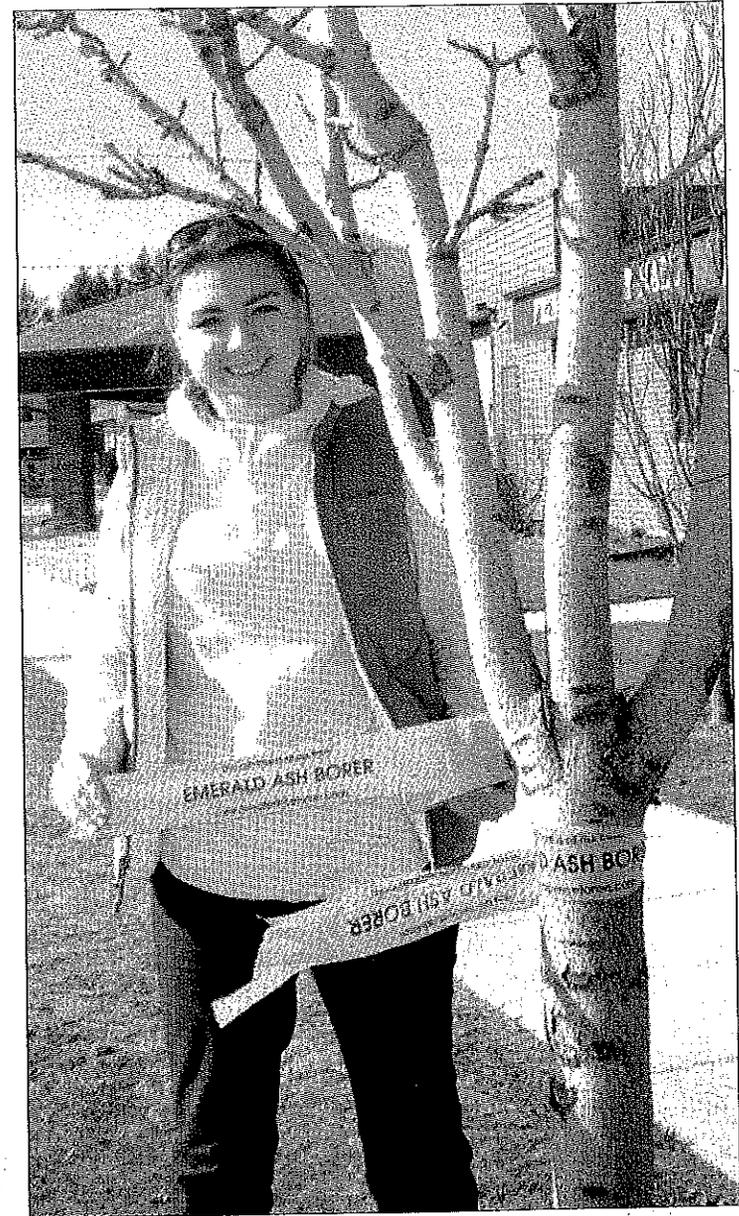
Kamke emphasized that the campaign pushes the awareness of EAB, but also what can be done if and when Green Lake County detects it. A big part of this awareness is to emphasize that banded trees are not being cut down, they are being marked to show residents and visitors the ash trees that could potentially be affected by EAB. The ribbons would be removed after a month or so of the awareness campaign.

If Princeton does detect EAB in any ash trees in the community,

Neubauer explained the process to rid the trees of EAB can be costly.

"It's a costly process to treat them. I don't know how costly, but the city did an Emerald Borer Awareness five or six years ago, and our stand point is that we would most likely take the tree down. Treating it is just very expensive," said Neubauer.

Citizens can assist with the campaign by finding out if they have trees at risk and learning to spot signs of EAB, and also knowing how to protect their trees. Many of these steps can be found at [www.cityofprincetonwi.com](http://www.cityofprincetonwi.com) or [www.goldensandsrccd.org](http://www.goldensandsrccd.org). Tree banding will occur next week on Monday throughout the Princeton community, and Kamke will also be available at the Princeton Arbor Day activities at City Park on Thursday, April 28.



PRINCETON TIMES-REPUBLIC PHOTO

**USUALLY HANDLING** invasive aquatic species, Regional AIS Coordinator Krista Kamke is assisting Princeton with raising awareness of Emerald Ash Borer beetles that can be destructive to ash trees.