



Autumn Ridge Newsletter

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FIRE BLIGHT

*By: Lee R. Gifford
The Gardening Angels, Inc.*

Fire Blight has been a recognized disease of fruit growers since the 1700's. It also affects many ornamental trees such as Flowering Pears, Crabapples, and Hawthorne as well as commonly used shrubbery such as Cotoneaster, Pyracantha, and even Raspberries and thornless Blackberries. Once started in a planting it can, if left untreated, disfigure an individual plant and even in extreme cases destroy an entire planting.

Unfortunately, our own neighborhood is seeing an increase of this disease on the ornamental Pears planted along the streets. It is easily

recognized by the dead branch tips which are wilted and can be dark brown or even blackened and look like they have been scorched by fire – hence the name **Fire Blight**. Additionally it is common to see a branch tip bent over in a traditional “shepherd’s crook”. Less easily recognized symptoms are the dark brown to purple cankers shrunk into the bark, and in some cases girdling the entire stem of an affected branch.

The bacteria over winters in the cankers and on plant surfaces. The first new tissue to become infected in spring is the flower. This new source of bacteria then serves as the source of the inoculum for shoot infections. The disease, if untreated, spreads rapidly in

spring periods of warm, humid, frost-free weather during and after blossoming.

As with all plant diseases the most important thing we can do is establish sound horticultural practices. This is classical example of the truthfulness of the old axiom that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Remember, disease can never be completely eradicated. So the most important thing that can be done is to minimize the conditions that favor its development.

1) Start with proper pruning. Thin thoroughly and shape the trees. In addition, while trees are dormant,

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TRAFFIC ISSUES & SOLUTIONS

Recently, the Board of Directors of the Autumn Ridge Homeowners Association and the Property Manager met with representatives from the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) Division of Traffic Engineering to explore the feasibility of installing some type of traffic calming measures at the intersection of Autumn Ridge Drive and Pleasant Ridge Drive.

As many members who live on Autumn Ridge Drive know, traffic volume has increased dramatically with the connection of Pleasant Ridge Drive with Man O War Blvd.

in front of Hamburg Pavilion. As a consequence, many non-resident vehicles are traveling through the neighborhood, frequently at speeds in excess of the posted limit. These drivers frequently ignore traffic signs also.

The Division of Traffic Engineering evaluated the traffic patterns at this intersection in September of 2002, as a necessary first step to determine if the intersection qualifies for traffic calming measures. They found that, of the 316 vehicles observed traveling through the intersection during peak traffic times, only 27.22% came to a

full stop. During this same period, 50.95% were observed making a rolling stop and 21.84% made no attempt to stop.

To qualify for the program, traffic volumes for a residential collector street, such as Autumn Ridge, must be over either 3,000 vehicles per day or 300 vehicles during peak traffic times.

In December, Traffic Engineering provided traffic count and speed data to the Association. This is another necessary step. The count was conducted during a weekday

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blighted twigs and branches should be removed below the infected area and destroyed. Make sure to remove all infected branches, even if this means the plant is left misshapen. (If this is too severe the plant may need to be removed.) This should be done each year. It is not necessary to sterilize pruning tools for dormant pruning. Also remove suckers that develop on the trunk or main scaffolding limbs, since they are particularly susceptible to infection.

2) In the spring, just as the bud is

ready to break, spray with a fungicide such as Streptomycin. If using Streptomycin, this treatment should be repeated 2 times at 4-5 day intervals during the bloom period. Other fungicides may allow as much as 7-10 day intervals. (Be sure to follow all label directions.) A word of caution, additional applications may result in development of resistant strains of the bacteria.

3) Avoid any cultural practices that stimulate rapid tree growth. This includes heavy nitrogen fertilization.

4) Avoid plant stresses such as drought. Stressed plants are more suscep-

tible to disease (and insects as well) and less able to fight back. Thus the spread of the disease will be more rapid.

For a more detailed explanation call the Fayette County Extension office at 257-5582 and ask for bulletin PPA-34. You can either pick it up or they will mail it to you. Or, if you prefer, you can go on the Internet. My personal favorite site, since it includes color photos, is from the University of Ohio at (no www) ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/3002.html.

(Continued from Traffic Issues and Solutions on page 1)

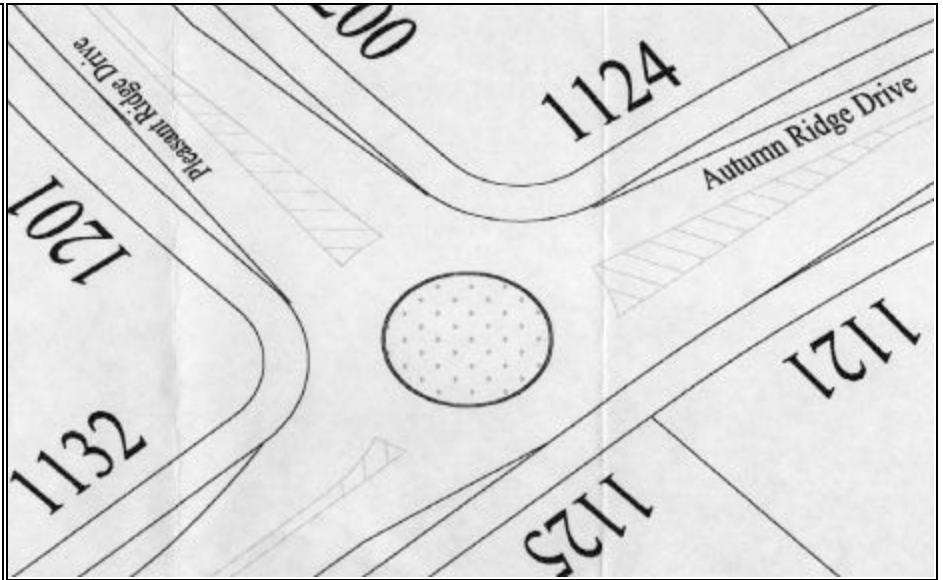
to reflect accurately normal traffic volume. They found the Average Daily Traffic Volume through this intersection to be 2,018 vehicles per day. There are only 348 homes in Autumn Ridge. They also found that approach speeds to this intersection measured 32.42 mph on Autumn Ridge and 34.89 on Pleasant Ridge on average. The posted speed limit is 25 mph.

Traffic Engineering counted 319 vehicles from 5:00 to 6:00 PM; 325 vehicles from 5:15 to 6:15 PM; and 305 vehicles from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. As a result of these studies and counts, Traffic Engineering determined that Autumn Ridge qualifies for traffic calming at this intersection based on the peak traffic volumes.

Pictured at right is a rendering of one possible traffic calming device, which is a raised median. There are lines painted on the street signaling drivers to slow down as they approach the median.

The next step is two-fold. The Board is asking Traffic Engineering to survey the neighborhood to determine interest in the project. The Board is also asking Traffic Engineering to solicit construction bids to determine the cost of the project.

The results of these two information surveys will help the Board determine if this project is feasible. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact Mr. Gibson at 263-7681.



STOP VANDALISM!

There have been reports of vandalism in the community. One resident had his tires slashed. Another reports seeing a suspicious vehicle just sitting on the street with the engine running, as if looking over the homes. Burglaries have been reported in other neighborhoods. Another homeowner reports witnessing teenagers damaging property.

Members of Autumn Ridge are urged to contact the police when they witness criminal activity. Their phone number is 258-3600. Please call as soon as you witness the activity. The police will respond and will increase their presence in the community, as a deterrent.

Members can prevent this type of activity by keeping lights on, keeping cars parked in garages, keeping garage doors closed, and remaining vigilant and reporting suspicious individuals to the police.

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the tree.

The Association wants to remind homeowners again about pruning the street trees. Please prune limbs over the sidewalk to provide a minimum of seven (7) feet of clearance. Please prune limbs over the street to provide a minimum of fourteen (14) feet of clearance. This allows LFUCG service vehicles, such as trash pick-up and street cleaning, enough clearance to do their job.

Please contact the Urban Arborist at 425-2255 if you need assistance or advice with blighted trees or with pruning limbs.

LANDSCAPING UPGRADES

Many homeowners could not help but notice the renovation of the landscaping beds at the Todds Road entrance and to other beds throughout the community.

The scope of the plant upgrade was extensive, involving the removal of older, overgrown evergreen shrubs and trees and replacement of the annual beds with perennials.

Some of the new plants members will see this Spring include 111 gallons of day-lilies, 65 pots of variegated liriope, 41 15/18" boxwood green velvets, 31 gallons of sedum 'autumn joy' and natrona, and 25 gallons of black-eyed Susan's. Other

plants include hydrangea, miscanthus, purple coneflowers, thorn-dale ivy and many more.

In addition to the new plants, the irrigation system was upgraded by the installation of several more sprinkler heads to accommodate the new plants.

To help offset the cost of this upgrade of \$13,827, the Association applied for the LFUCG Neighborhood Action Match. Mr. Gibson continues to follow-up on the status of the application. He expects LFUCG to decide on the application sometime in January or February.

Additional savings is expected from the reduction of the monthly grounds maintenance

expense from \$809.58 to \$673.33, resulting in a monthly savings of \$136.25. This savings is a result of the upgrade.

The Association works very hard to maintain and improve the appearance of the community. The Association asks for similar efforts from the membership, especially with respect to street trees.

The lead article addresses the disease of Fire Blight. This disease has the potential of killing the pear trees. Homeowners must take this disease seriously and take steps to remove the blighted limbs or risk losing

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Announcements

Board and Annual Meetings for 2003

This year's Board Meetings are scheduled for March 4 and May 6 at the Republic Bank at 7:00 PM. The Bank is located in the Brighton Shoppes at the intersection of Todds and Man O War Blvd. Autumn Ridge homeowners are welcome to attend the open portion of the meeting.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 10 at 7:00 PM. The location will be announced in the next newsletter. In addition, information will be mailed in advance of the meeting in accordance with the governing documents of the Corporation.

New Directors for Board of Directors

The term of two of the five current Board members is nearing an end. Bob Hughes and Brad Partridge will be stepping down as Board members. The Association is asking for volunteers to step forward for service on the Board of Directors.

Once elected, the term of service is one year. Directors may serve up to, but no more than, three (3) consecutive terms. Board meetings are scheduled every other month.

Interested volunteers are asked to contact either Edwin Gibson, 263-7681, or Bob Hughes, 263-1514, with questions or to submit your name for consideration. Board members are elected each year at the Annual Meeting.

The New Andover Golf & Country Club

Happy New Year! Let me take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Christopher McDaniel. I am the recently appointed General Manager of the Andover Golf & Country Club. I have been on board since June of 2002. I have 17 years experience with developments, private club operations, and golf course management. My wife, Lisa, and I have two young sons and I have a daughter who is attending Bellarmine University in Louisville.

As many of you know, our club is in a transitional period in its history. We are currently in the middle of a clubhouse renovation that will improve the club's ability to host large events. The renovation will also offer a relaxed, casual family-oriented dining environment. The décor will mirror the tra-

ditional and stately feel of a private club. The House Committee has recruited and contracted for the services of Executive Chef, Martin Gentry, whose talent and experience has been developed at several upscale local restaurants, including the Merrick Inn. During the month of December, Chef Gentry executed 33 parties in 21 days. The comment cards returned to the club boasted of the much-improved quality of food and the high level of service!

The Membership Committee is in the final planning stages of our 2003 Membership Campaign. Without question, it is the most in-depth marketing campaign Andover has ever pursued. It has included numerous hours of industry research, local target markets studies and a thorough and

detailed membership survey conducted by the local university. There is no doubt that Andover Golf & Country Club is on the move!

The club will be hosting a number of Open House Parties in the near future. The dates and times of these parties will be provided to you through your Association newsletters. In the meantime, please feel free to call me at the Club at 263-3710, at home at 231-8841, or on my mobile phone at 321-1605.

The Andover Golf & Country Club is committed to growing our relationship with the Homeowners Associations. We are committed to becoming the "club of choice" in the Lexington area. And we are committed to ensuring that our club is an extension of your home.



Autumn Ridge
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LFUCG LEAF COLLECTION

LFUCG will be in the neighborhood vacuuming up leaves Monday, January 27, 2003. Please rake your leaves to the utility strip. Do not rake leaves into the street. The truck will not vacuum leaves if it cannot get under your street trees. Please prune those limbs 14 feet over the street and 7 feet over the sidewalk.

Mailing Address Line 1
 Mailing Address Line 2
 Mailing Address Line 3
 Mailing Address Line 4
 Mailing Address Line 5

SPRING YARD SALE

Clean out your closets, garages, and basements. The Spring neighborhood yard sale is set for May 17, 2003. The Homeowners Association will advertise the sale and provide balloons. The cost to participate is \$5.00. Proceeds will benefit the Park Fund. Please contact Bob or Donna Hughes at 263-1514 for details.

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