

# Confused seasons?

## Fungus defoliating Redford subdivision's trees

### CLARIFICATION

An article about the Farmington Hills Mobile Recreation Unit in the June 21 Farmington Observer should have listed the recreation intern's name as Emily Shipley.

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June is no time to be raking leaves off the lawn.

At least that's what residents on Rockland Street believe. But, a tree fungus has caused the 50-year-old sycamore trees in their south Redford neighborhood to lose leaves prematurely.

Their lush, green lawns are covered with dry, brown leaves, and their colorful flower beds are hidden under bunches of leaves. Bags of leaves are set by the curb, and the streets are lined with crushed leaves.

"It's a lot of work that you just wish you didn't have to do," said

Pat Wright, a Rockland resident. "I rake three to four bags of leaves a week, and June is not the time of year to be raking leaves."

### What is it?

Anthracocone is a fungus that can attack many tree and shrub species, according to landscape experts at the Michigan State University Extension. It affects the foliage on ash, elm, hickory, linden, butternut, walnut, birch, catalpa, oak, poplar, sycamore and many species of maple.

The fungus burrows into the twigs, causing sores or cankers, which damage the pathway for nutrients to reach new leaves, causing them to die and fall before reaching maturity.

The fungus is not known to be deadly for the tree, according to experts.

"Typically, anthracnose is not fatal," said Kristine Hahn, consumer horticultural agent at the Wayne County MSU Extension. "I realize it causes a big mess, but it's not fatal."

Like hundreds of trees in Redford, Wright's old sycamore, which stands 80 feet tall, is between the sidewalk and the curb, in the county right-of-way.

"I wish Wayne County could come up with a solution, such as a treatment program for these trees, to stop the deterioration, if that's possible," Wright said.

Wayne County's Department of Public Works has no such program, but officials are aware of the anthracnose fungus, which



**Disbelief:** Redford resident Pat Wright can't believe how many leaves he and neighbors must bag this time of year.

has been attacking older trees in the area for years.

"We're really not equipped for that kind of treatment," said John Roach, department spokesman, noting the fungus is not lethal. "We will remove a tree if it's to a point that it is at risk of losing a major limb, dying or falling down."

MSU's Hahn said continuous infections year after year could weaken a tree.

"I would say if it happens three to five years in a row, the tree is going to be considerably

weakened and susceptible to other diseases," Hahn said.

That's what concerns Rockland Street resident Marguerite Venn, because the trees in her neighborhood have been afflicted by the fungus for several years.

"I'm concerned for the safety of the tree," she said. "It leaves my husband and I to wonder, if the tree is diseased, is it susceptible to falling down? That's our concern above and beyond the mess."

The best way to handle the fungus is to avoid it. Species

that are especially resistant are London Plane, red oak and black oak.

But, it's too late for many residents, who are dealing with the problem now.

Pruning and properly disposing of the infected twigs and leaves are the two best ways to combat the fungus, said Hahn. While tree service companies will recommend antifungal spray treatments, there is little evidence pointing to improvement, according to MSU experts. Hahn said the treatments are also expensive and not too good for the environment.

"By practicing good sanitation and pruning, you can prevent the reinfection the following year," Hahn said.

Wright said he paid \$200 a few years ago to have his tree sprayed by a commercial tree service, but it hasn't helped.

Thinning the crown of the tree can help increase circulation and cutting out the visible cankers to prevent them from festering during the winter months are two good practices.

Composting is not recommended to dispose of fallen leaves," Hahn said.

"People should bury or burn the diseased twigs and leaves to prevent spreading the fungus. Sanitation is an important thing."

(For more information on the anthracnose fungus, log on to the MSU Extension Web site at [www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu))



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### OBITUARIES

#### LAWRENCE G. WAY

Services for Lawrence G. Way, 83, of Livonia were held June 23 from the Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington with the Rev. John E. Maki officiating. Burial was at Glen Eden Mausoleum in Livonia.

Mr. Way was born May 9, 1918, in Livonia and died June 20 in Livonia. He began his career in the building supply trade with Fendt and worked as general manager of Boice Build-

ing Supply Co. in Pontiac until retiring in 1984. He was a member of Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington since 1983. He enjoyed bowling, golf, baseball, horseshoes and roller skating.

He is survived by his wife, Audrey, whom he married in 1967; daughter Jill (Keith) Coffey, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Preceding Mr. Way in death were his first wife, Marcella,

whom he wed in 1938; and a daughter, Judith Rogers.

Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

#### LIVIO CAPPICCHIONI

Services for Livio Cappicchioni, 73, of Farmington Hills were June 22 from Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington with burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Mr. Cappicchioni was born

June 11, 1928 in San Marino and died June 18 at his home in Farmington Hills.

He began his career in 1956 with Shell Oil in Venezuela and moved to Detroit in 1958, where he worked as a carpenter. In 1959, he began working as an architect, and established his own firm in 1965.

Since 1982, he served as adjunct consul for the Republic of San Marino both in Detroit and as a representative to the

Midwestern United States. In 1990, he was appointed embassy counselor to the permanent observer mission of the republic of San Marino to the United Nations.

He is survived by his wife, Anna; children Paola, Marco (Lisa), Lucia, Rita (Michael) and Carlo (Nicole); sisters Lea, Lina and Loretta; brothers Lucio and Lino and two grandchildren.

McCabe Funeral Home handled the arrangements.



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