BEETLES

FROM PAGE A1

FROM PAGE AI locust trees, which require more care but seem to stay longer, Lauhoff said. Hills city officials used emergency funds earlier this month to pay three tree service companies to inject an insecticide near the base of ash trees in the city's majes eight. trees in the city's major rights-of-way and parks. About 800 trees have been treated, said trees have been treated, said and Dale Countegan, tipy lanning director. The city takes care of roughly 1,200 ash threes, he said, adding trees already damaged by the infection will be processed by the tree service companies. Though the ash tree decline has been known for the past several years, its culprit has been officially identified by state and federal agriculturists. The county informed the city that the bug is known as "emerald ash borer" and has infected many of the trees on public property already, including those planted at the city campus on 11 Mile and Orchard Lake.

The Hills city council

on 11 Mile and Orchard Lake.

The Hills city council approved the use of emergency funds at its Monday meeting. City Manager Steve Brock said there isn't enough information available as to whether the insecticide will stop the insect from infecting a tree entirely. We may be part of a test group for this bore, he told the council. The city did issue a pursantine on ash trees leaving the affected five-county area: Wayne, Oakhand, Macomb, Livingston and Washtenaw.

How can you identify and treat infected ash trees?

Ash trees affected by eme Ash trees anected by click ald ash borer may show son of the following symptoms, according to Hills city offi-

■ thinning and/or yellowing of the foliage;
■ development of new shoots from the trunk or

branches;

woodpecker injury
(wood-boring beetles are a
woodpecker's favorite food);

tunneling beneath the

bark;
D-shaped emergence
holes on the trunk or branch

es; ■ gradual tree death.

City officials said for trees that are not severely affected, residents should remove the dead branches. The branches dead branches. The branches can be tied in bundles (up to 4-feet long and 6-inches in diameter) and placed at the curb for recycling, since compost materials do not go outside the quarantined area. Experts at Michigan State University are still investigating treatments for ash trees that are not vet affected or

ing treatments for asin treatment that are not yet affected or mildly affected. Treatment information is available on their Web site, www. msue. msu. edu/ reg_se/roberts/ ash/decline.html

Istate agriculture officials have issued a quarantine on all ash trees and timber products in the affected counties to help prevent and control the spread of the pest. Under this quarantine, ash trees, branches, logs and firewood may not be moved outside the affected area unless certified for movement by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Countegan said the city's investment in the trees is important and that the city was told by specialists from the county that the sooner the trees were injected with the insecticide the better.

The larva (of the beetle) is active in mid to late August, he said. We have half a million dollars invested in our trees and were trying to maintain our natural infrastructure.

Brock said the city could look into having tree service contractors offer the city lower prices for residents if enough interests in joining a program is gained. He warned that tree service companies may already be overwhelmed with requests from residents for ash tree protection services. We think this is the right first step, he said of treatright first step, he said of treat-ing the city's healthy ash trees.



The holes in the trunk of the ash are made by the Emerald Ash Borer. The damage occurs under the outer layer of bark. Woodpeckers are often attracted to the borers, causing their own additional damage to the stressed tree.



Political members and civilians came together on Tuesday morning to speak their minds on Engler's veto.

OVERRIDE

FROM PAGE AT

islators. This is unfair because the governor said he wouldn't touch the revenue sharing if he got the cigarette tax (increase), said Patterson. "I'm not here to embarrass the governor – he embarrassed himself."

Patterson drew some booing as he said it would be in the as he said it would be in the best interest of local govern-ment if they worked to defeat the three ballot proposals which Engler cited as the rea-son for the state shared rev-

enue veto.
"In my 11 years as mayor, I
never remember a time when In my 11 years as mayor, I never remember a time when state government was so irresponsible; said Grand Rapids Mayor John Logie. Each legislator who is trying to be reclected or elected to a new job should remember this is their moment - they either stand with the Engler or they stand with the people. The massive cuts in staff and services that would be required had the funding veto stood were addressed by many spackers. The Impact on public safety was particularly emphasized by the rally speakers, who stood in front of rows of uniformed police and fireflighters. The governor has betrayed and double-crossed public safety in this state; place the fireflight of the safety of the sa

Chiefs of Police.

"Maintaining public safety
must be the number one priority for this state. Local government will experience major

budget reductions in public safety, he added. "These may require slashing services, raising local taxes and in some extreme cases, forcing receivership."

In public safety, about 90 percent of a department's budget can be personnel costs, Dwyer said, meaning officers have to be laid off to offset revenue cuts.

enue cuts.
Some fire departments such as Lansing brought their fire trucks to the Capitol and sounded their sirens as the speakers concluded. Override supporters then moved into the Capitol to visit legislators to again urge that the veto be overridden.

agnin or wish registators to again urge that the veto be overridden. After the rally, Hills Mayor Nancy Bates, who was up on stage with Patterson and other featured speakers, described the roster of speakers as a nice balance. She was also impressed by the turn-out for the rally. It was really good to see people come out and fight for their communities. Hills City Council members were outraged by the Governor's veto, and while Bates was thrilled with the over-ride, she pointed out the battle may not be quite over. "We've got a lame duck session coming up, so nobody knows what is going to happen," she said.

Terl Arbenowske, who works.

she said.

The Arbenowske, who works as assistant to the city manager, keeps a close eye on legislative issues and will watch this one, Bates said.

Staff writers soil Hubred and Paul Pace contributed to this story.

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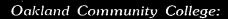
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