

## **WARRINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **PROTECT YOUR TREES**

We would like to inform the community of a devastating new blight that is estimated to kill most of our ash trees. It has already killed almost 200 million trees in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio and is headed our way. It is presently making its appearance in Western and Central Pennsylvania. This blight is caused by the Emerald Ash Borer, an insect that is under an inch in length, and is considered the worse blight since the destruction of the Dutch Elm trees. To get further information, you can go to the [dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/insectsdisease/eab](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/insectsdisease/eab) website. If you have some ash trees on your property, or know of a beautiful specimen growing somewhere that is worth saving, all is not totally lost. Trees can be treated with reasonable success and will survive. If you do decide to take action make sure you contact a very reputable tree service to see what options you may have. Unless you know what you are doing, this is not something you should be addressing yourself.

Allowing English Ivy to grow up your trees is another potential threat. Some people think it looks attractive, but in reality this European ornamental vine has transformed into an invasive problem on both US coasts, suffocating and eventually killing trees with out-of-control growth. Fortunately, this is a problem that, with a little work, can be addressed. Ideally the best method for a permanent fix is to cut the ivy at the base of the tree and pull it out by the roots. For a quick fix, cut the ivy at the base of the tree and all the growth climbing up the tree will die. However, if roots are left in the ground, the ivy will start to grow back up the tree or anywhere else it can latch on.