

## **What are those white buckets all about?**

Keego Harbor has just planted 25 new trees around town, so please welcome them, and encourage them as they settle in to their new homes.

This tree planting project was supported, in part, by a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Urban and Community Forest program and the DTE Energy Foundation.

The program stresses diversity, and the use of native species, as well as proper planting techniques and maintenance during the first three years.

Local volunteers did the research into the selection and placement of appropriate species, and our Department of Public Works staff did the heroic work of planting them as quickly as possible along with all of their other responsibilities.

The buckets were donated by local restaurants for re-use as part of our irrigation system. They can be filled quickly by the DPW, and tiny holes around the bottom allow the water to trickle out slowly. The trees will be watered regularly until the ground freezes, and then again all next summer as the trees become established.

All of the trees are in the ground, and volunteers will finish the cleaning up of the circles around them as the DPW continues watering and catching up on their regular duties. Later in the fall, volunteers will wrap the trunks of the thin-barked ones, and install stakes for those that need them.

## **Look for these new trees...**

### **On Cass Lake Road between Moss and Glenbroke ....**

Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), two of them. These are more common further south, but do well in Michigan too. They look like evergreens, but will turn rust-colored in the fall and then lose their needles and grow new ones next spring.

American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) three of them. These are also called Blue Beech. They will turn yellow in the fall, and will not grow too tall under the power lines. MI native.

Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) on the west side at Moss St. This will, we hope, grow very large and live a very long time, like the old oaks that we have been losing all around town in recent years. MI native.

### **In Fran Leaf Park...**

White Willow (*Salix alba*) a variety called 'Niobe'. This is in the spot where we lost an old weeping willow last spring. This one will weep as well, and have a nice golden color in the late winter, the first sign of spring. It is introduced from Europe.

Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). This lovely tree has leaves with a distinctive shape, and showy flowers in the spring, and nice yellow fall color. MI native.

## **Baxter-Morgan Park...**

Hackberry Tree (*Celtis occidentalis*). This tree provides fruit that is attractive to birds, and with age, the bark will have an interesting warty appearance. MI native.

Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*). This is also known as muscle-wood, or ironwood. Over time, the trunk will develop what looks like muscles under the smooth bark. The fruit looks like hops. MI native.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*). Up on the slope, next to the big old oak that lost a major limb this year, we have planted a new oak, taking care to avoid the path of snow-boarders. MI native.

## **In Rose Sortor Park, and around the DPW building...**

A lot of progress was made towards completing the landscape design created five years ago for this site, including...

A White Oak (*Quercus alba*), a Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), and a Northern Red Oak (*Quercus borealis*), all Michigan natives. Examine the leaves for differences. It will be several more years before they bear acorns.

A Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), a White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), and a White Spruce (*Picea glauca*). Examine the needles to see the difference. These will likely have cones in year or two, another aid to identification. All MI natives.

Up towards the DPW, near the pond, you will find...

A River Birch (*Betula nigra*). This multi-stemmed tree has pretty coppery peeling bark and yellow fall color.

Another Weeping Willow 'Niobe', to replace the one we lost there several years ago.

A Serviceberry 'Autumn Brilliance', (*Amelanchier x hybrida*). This is another multi-stemmed tree with gray bark, white flowers in the spring, berries in summer, and brilliant red fall color.