

## **WEST LAFAYETTE TREE FRIENDS SWEATER-WRAP TREES**

**West Lafayette, Ind.—December 16, 2014--** To protect newly planted trees from vandalism, the West Lafayette Tree Friends (WLTF) wrapped dozens of these young trees with bright yarn sweaters, also known as yarn-bombing. Signs attached to the sweaters inform passers-by that these trees matter and need protection.

The signs carry humorous messages, such as “Don’t break my trunk when you get drunk,” or “These trees are loved by little old ladies with knitting needles...and they’re not afraid to use them,” to remind people that citizens put in considerable effort to get these trees planted. The sweaters are knitted by WLTF volunteers as part of their year-round work of pruning, planting, protecting and fund-raising. Currently, WLTF is in the midst of fund-raising to replace broken trees and dead trees that have succumbed to emerald ash borer.

“Yarn-bombing is a fun way to get the word out that we care about these trees. In the past, we’ve frequently seen pedestrians reading the tags and so far—in the last two years—those trees with sweaters have not been broken,” explains Beverly Shaw, West Lafayette Greenspace Administrator.

Lynn Layden, Chair of the West Lafayette Tree Friends, adds, “Trees capture stormwater, cool the air, shade the sidewalks and beautify our community. Each one costs about \$200 so it’s upsetting when one is broken. We are losing so many trees to emerald ash borer so it’s important to let these young trees grow.”

Over 30 years ago, Helen Lillich formed the WLTF group and was responsible for the planting of approximately 5000 trees. The West Lafayette Tree Friends carry on her important work.

To learn more about the WLTF and sign up for their new bimonthly e-newsletter, go to [www.westlafayette.in.gov/departement/board.php?fDD=4-29](http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/departement/board.php?fDD=4-29). To make tax-free donations to the WLTF fund-raising initiative, send checks, made payable to the West Lafayette Tree Friends, to West Lafayette Tree Friends, 1101 Kalberer Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

###

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Beverly Shaw, Greenspace Administrator: 775-5161

Lynn Layden, Chair of the West Lafayette Tree Fund: 463-2242

Photo below: Don Wood installing a tree sweater

