



For Immediate Release

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Ellsworth-Romig Neighborhood Association Recognizes Residents who Water their Trees

Tree Lafayette is urging residents to water the trees in front of their homes and in their yards. As an incentive to water trees and to provide recognition to those residents who do, the Ellsworth-Romig neighborhood association is putting tags on the trees, naming the resident who watered the tree, says Gail Brock, president of the Ellsworth-Romig Neighborhood Association, and a board member of Tree Lafayette, a non-profit organization dedicated to tree planting and awareness of trees in the urban setting.

“These trees are long term investments in our neighborhood, and water is the key to keeping the tree thriving,” says Brock. The neighborhood association has already started the program, placing tags on trees at New York, Oregon, and South Eighth Streets.

As a volunteer effort for Tree Lafayette, Brock spends time watering and pruning trees that have been planted during the many events organized by Tree Lafayette.

Attached are graphics of the tags to use as a visual.

A tree needs water to sustain itself, particularly in its first three years of life. Trees planted within the last three or four years need supplemental water during dry weather because they don't have a fully developed root system, says Greg Shaner, chairman of Tree Lafayette's Tree Committee.

With everything else that needs to be watered this summer, it's easy to forget about the trees, but they will die without sufficient water, says Larry Rose, president of Tree Lafayette. So far in 2012, Tree Lafayette has planted 201 new trees in Lafayette and replaced several dead trees.

Particularly in their first three years of life, trees need about the equivalent of one inch of rain water per week. Rose says it's not necessary to have a rain gage, but

residents can observe when the weather is abnormally dry, such as the last few weeks, and then take extra care to water their trees. When watering, also take into consideration that a larger tree does need more water than a smaller tree, regardless of its age.

Some signs that a tree is in distress and needs water are when the leaves curl, or they are sun burned. The sun burn can be spotted when a normally green leaf looks red or brown.