

West Hartford

Cub Scout Pack 161 Puts The Elm In Elmwood Clubs & Organizations

Submitted by Herb Emanuelson on 10-09-2008.

On October 4, 2008, West Hartford's Duffy Elementary School Cub Scout Pack 161 planted a disease-resistant elm tree in a newly renovated green in the Town of Elmwood section. The tree was donated to Pack 161 and the Town of West Hartford by the non-profit Elm Research Institute (ERI) of Keene, New Hampshire.

The Cub Scouts participated in a dedication ceremony attended by several town and state officials including Mayor Scott Slifka, Police Chief James Strillacci, State Representative Beth Bye, David McCluskey and Jonathan Harris, Dr. S. Rick Liffig, President of the Elmwood Business Association, and Town Historian Tracey Wilson.

The Cub Scouts presented Mayor Slifka with a "Liberty Tree Memorial" plaque to be placed near the elm tree. Cubmaster Rich Woolfson and Den Leader Gabelle (who coordinated the event) spoke of the Cub Scouts' significant contribution to the "re-elming" of Elmwood and the importance of giving back to the community through service projects such as the Liberty Elm Tree Dedication. Each Scout and Scout leader took a turn shoveling dirt to bury the tree's roots, and watering the tree.

Over 100 million American elms were killed in the United States by the late 19th century as a result of Dutch elm disease. ERI's mission is to repopulate the country with disease resistant elms. Distributed exclusively by ERI, the American Liberty Elm is the only elm with a lifetime warranty against Dutch elm disease.