



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

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Our Greene Countrie Towne

March Nor'easters Down Two Huge Trees in Rittenhouse Square

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Two huge trees fell in Rittenhouse Square during the March Nor'easters, a linden and a horse chestnut. (Pictured is the linden tree, on the outer circle.) Luckily they did not injure anyone. Each tree was next to a path and fell, roots and all, at a southeast angle, away from the path.

"Wow, that's always so amazing to me," says Raneë Shipley, a development associate at JEVS Human Services, who works in a high-rise office building on the north side of Rittenhouse Square, "the power of the wind versus the power of trees to hang on. Unfortunately, these two trees lost the battle."

Kevin Feeley, Communications Manager at Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, says their Public Landscapes team blames a combination of saturated ground and

extremely high winds. Bob Regan, a Center City resident and former owner of many trees, thinks another contributing factor could be damage to the trees' root systems during paving. Cutting roots weakens a tree's support system, making the tree more susceptible to strong winds.

Friends of Rittenhouse Square is currently raising funds to help cover the replacement cost of the trees. President Renée Dubyk says, "We are hoping to get a sizable tree replacement specifically for the horse chestnut tree that fell in the middle section of the park, since that tree was an integral part of the landscape. It will be very costly to get a large-diameter tree. We are hoping that we will get additional members to join, and that existing members will contribute additional funds to replace the tree." <http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/>

