

October

“Extravaganza”

The month of October is by far the most showy and extravagant month of the year with its kaleidoscope of colors. The entire property is in full dress costume. The predominant color is red with a smattering of yellows, oranges, and rusts. The ‘red sunset’ red maples are aglow in red from 16th Street up the Mt. Laurel Ave. hill to the chapel. Throughout the property, the many varieties of Japanese maples are also flashing their colors from a deep burgundy to orange tinted red to a bright crimson. The dwarf red maples have lost their fine lacy leaves by the end of Oct. The young pin oaks along the east wall of Market Street have taken on a pinkish red that becomes light reddish brown in November.

A palate of colors delights the eye no matter where one looks. The tall gangly female ginkgo, with splashes of yellow, is dropping her fleshy fruit. The mature sugar maples that were dotted in orange in September have all turned yellow;



and by the end of October most of their leaves have dropped. However, the young maple plantings won’t change until November. The mature pin oaks along Trinity Ave. and Woodland Ave. are turning to a pinkish brown. The dawn red-wood, swamp white oak, and homestead hybrid elm have all taken on a yellowish tint, with only the elm dropping some of their serrated leaves. The brownish orange of the mighty white oaks are almost finished dropping. The Norway and sycamore maple have not even started to turn color yet.



While the most beautiful color is within the property, anyone traveling on Market Street is treated to a colorful sight as well. The tear drop shaped European hornbeam that line Market Street have bodies of green while they wear hats of gold. They will carry this coloring into November. Behind them is the pinkish brown colored pin oaks to the east and the yellowish green spotted bark London planetrees to the west. Dotted on the east side behind the pine oaks are the dark green of eastern white pine, although their needles are taking on a brownish tint, as does the cryptomeria.



Some trees, while taking on a faint yellowish tint, don't change their color, they just drop their leaves. Some of these trees are the American basswood and the little leaf linden. The Japanese larch, which is the only evergreen to drop its spurs of needles, has begun to do just that.

The weather is still relatively nice and on the warm side, although it is still hurricane season. The wind and rain from a hurricane removes the leaves

very quickly. October and November are very busy months for the workers because of the mounds of leaves that have to be blown into piles and vacuumed up. Sometimes the City of Pottsville, while they are vacuuming up the leaves throughout the city, will help by having their truck vacuum up the leaves if the workers manage to blow them in piles along the main road of the cemetery.

We still have the school children crossing the property, but the bicyclist, the dog walkers, and the parents and grandparents with small children are not as abundant as in the summer months. The extravagantly colorful month of October is followed by an encore performance in November.

