



Robin Scholz/The News Gazette

Urbana Arborist Mike Brunk, left, and homeowner Rebecca Obuchowski measure the trunk of a sycamore tree Friday that was recognized under the city's Legacy Tree Program for being the largest in the city outside of a park. The tree, which measured 54.7 inches diameter, is in the 300 block of High Street.

LEGACY TREE PROGRAM

Urbana approves third designation

By **MELISSA MERLI**
mmerli@news-gazette.com

URBANA — Urbana has recognized its second official living “legacy” tree.

It’s a giant sycamore in the right-of-way at 309 W. High St. After measuring the diameter at 54½ inches, city arborist Mike Brunk proclaimed it the biggest parkway tree in

Urbana — there are larger ones in parks.

Theresa Herman, who lives on High Street, nominated the sycamore for the Tree Legacy Program after having admired it for years, Brunk said.

He ascertained the sycamore’s height at 105 feet and its crown spread at 100 feet. He believes it is more than 100 years old.

“We did a little bit of an assessment,” he said. “It’s in good condition, with minor flaws, for a sycamore of this size and age.”

There will not be a cere-

mony to pay tribute to the sycamore.

The city’s first legacy tree was the giant Sim Hackberry in the 300 block of South Coler Avenue. It was honored posthumously, after being removed for safety reasons. The first living legacy tree is a bur oak in the 300 block of West Griggs Street.

The city’s Legacy Tree Program started in 2013. Any Urbana resident may nominate a tree for the honor. For criteria and other information, go to urbanillinois.us/legacytrees.