

**City of Davis City Manager's Office
23 Russell Boulevard – Davis, California 95616
530-757-5602 – FAX: 530-757-5603 – TDD: 530-757-5666**



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PRESS RELEASE**

For More Information: Call 530-757-5602

Bill Emlen
City of Davis
City Manager

February 14, 2008 (3:04 PM)

Landmark Tree in Downtown Davis Causes Evacuation

A large pine tree on the downtown Mansion Square property began to tilt dramatically this morning causing E Street between 1st and 2nd Streets to be closed. The Foothill Pine (pinus sabiniana) just outside of the Kaplan Test Prep classrooms at 132 E Street began to list this morning when its roots began to lift up the dirt and the pavement near its base. With the continuing winds from the north and northwest, the trunk of the tree by noon was resting against the Mansion Square roofline.

Davis police and fire personnel immediately blocked off the sidewalk and parking on the east side of E Street and closed the street to traffic. Staff from the city's Parks & Community Services Department evaluated the tree's condition and the city's arborist, Rob Cain, determined that the tree presented a safety hazard and should be removed. Local tree services were contacted and Monarch Tree Service was able to respond at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday to begin formulating plans for removing the tree.

A PG & E crew turned off the gas line feeding the meter near the tree. The shops and restaurants in Mansion Square were evacuated as well. Police volunteers and fire staff secured the area and assisted with crowd and traffic control.

Depicted as the largest tree in the downtown, the Foothill Pine is designated as a Landmark Tree in the city's tree inventory and is also known by the name of Grey Pine. Landmark Trees are designated because they are unique in being: an outstanding specimen of a desirable species, one of the largest or oldest trees in Davis, of historical interest and of distinctive form.

The pine is thought to be between 80 and 100 years old and over 75 feet tall. Due to the size of the tree, the complete removal is expected to take several days. That block of E Street and

Mansion Square shops and restaurants are expected to reopen once the tree is cut back and there is no immediate danger of it falling onto the buildings.

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