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Mighty oak comes crashing down

By Jennifer Wake



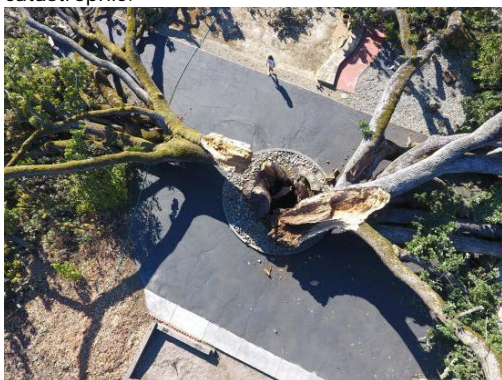
Photos Robert J. Schroeder Photography

became vulnerable because the decay was weakening their structural strength. "Valley oaks are very drought tolerant and like a dry climate during the dry season. The best advice I can give is have your trees assessed by an arborist on a regular basis. Arborists are trained to identify trees under stress and many times they will be able to alert a resident to a problem."

Dauchauer says there are two different types of arborists: consulting arborists and tree care arborists. "Often times tree assessments overlap between the two different types, but generally speaking a consulting arborist can help guide a resident to what their trees need and through their recommendations, a tree care arborist affiliated with a tree care company can do the work," he said.

The tree in question had decay and a consulting arborist would have been able to perform a risk assessment on the tree and then determine if the tree needed to be pruned, cabled for stability or removed, Dauchauer said.

"Our message to everyone is to please be conscientious about the health of your large trees and see that they get proper care," Miller said. "Had this tree come down in another direction it might have been catastrophic."



Photos Robert J. Schroeder Photography

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