

Re: your Oct. 14 article, "Stately oak is toppled":

The Ed Lawrence Triunfo Oak Tree was cut down Thursday without any public notice. An Aug. 25 article in The Star read: "Once fully armed with the collective wisdom of the tree experts, (city) officials will decide what to do. It would include plenty of public outreach and education if the prognosis is grim."

One would think that since City Hall has posted Ed Lawrence's photographs detailing the history of the tree over the last six decades on its website, that it would have had the courtesy to call Mr. Lawrence yesterday, explain the situation and inquire if he could possibly be here to take the last photos/footage of the magnificent, doomed tree that is his focal point in a "Ranches to Residences" series of historical photographic documentation.

However, when I called Mr. Lawrence to tell him the tree was being cut down, he had not been considered. He said he could leave immediately to document its last day in our city if the city would delay a short time. It was important to him to be here.

After all, the Oct. 12 arborist report said "action to mitigate the risks is required within weeks" not "within hours." By that time, City Hall wheels were in motion; the Thousand Oaks police force, a dozen city officials and the tree removal contractors were on site finalizing the task ahead. The allegedly lethal tree was destroyed.

In the early afternoon, police and city officials were back at work while I poked around tree remains for the few seeds the tree produced this year and marveled at the huge piece of flawless, intact hardwood that comprised the main trunk of the Ed Lawrence Triunfo Oak Tree, one of the tree removal team mentioned to me that it would become a conference table at City Hall.

Perhaps Mr. Lawrence will be invited to photograph it.

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Read more: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2011/oct/15/oak-tree/#ixzz1b4KYJ95r>

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