

enterprise

YOLO COUNTY NEWS

Features

Great Tree Search: The car magnets

By Special to The Enterprise

The family that lives at 518 Antioch Drive loves the summer shade cast by the magnificent scarlet oak tree in front of their home.

According to Rob Cain, Davis urban forest manager, the tree was planted in 1972. It stands 96 feet tall and has a 100-foot-wide crown that spreads across the street. Its girth is 10.5 feet. This scarlet oak was nominated by Alan Hirsch because of its size and brilliant red fall color. During the dog days of summer, neighbors are grateful for a shady spot to park their cars.

Luckily, this sizable tree provides ample shade for many people and their vehicles to enjoy. A native of the eastern U.S., it is not as drought-tolerant as Texas red oak, its cousin from the West Texas hill country.

Living umbrella

Another car magnet is the 56-year old Chinese hackberry tree that arches over 327 E. Ninth Street.

According Pete Fuqua, who nominated this tree, its massive umbrella-shaped crown is impossible to miss when walking or driving down the street. The tree is wider (65 feet) than tall (50 feet), with a 7.4-foot girth. This hackberry is native to east Asia and is a member of the hemp family.

Leaves and bark have medicinal uses, but its summer shade is a welcome relief for local residents. As long as we remain attentive to its health, this Chinese hackberry tree should provide future generations with an abundance of delight.

Serenity under the stone pine

Very few residents of our streets in Davis are as lucky as those on Plum Lane, where a majestic Italian stone pine casts a spell of awe.

The 55-year old tree was nominated by Louise Conrad because she always enjoys seeing it on her neighborhood walks. The current resident of 1012 Plum Lane, Leilani Buddenhagen, says that the owl feathers she finds under the tree remind her of its many denizens. The 100-ft tall towering conifer can be seen for blocks, and its umbrella-shaped crown casts shade across the entire street.

Up close, its 10.2-foot girth and thickly plated, red-brown bark impress. The tree's deep green foliage has a calming effect. In fact, a young woman used to regularly meditate under this tree. One can't help but wonder about the many memories children of Davis carry who grew up climbing its trunk and swinging from its branches.

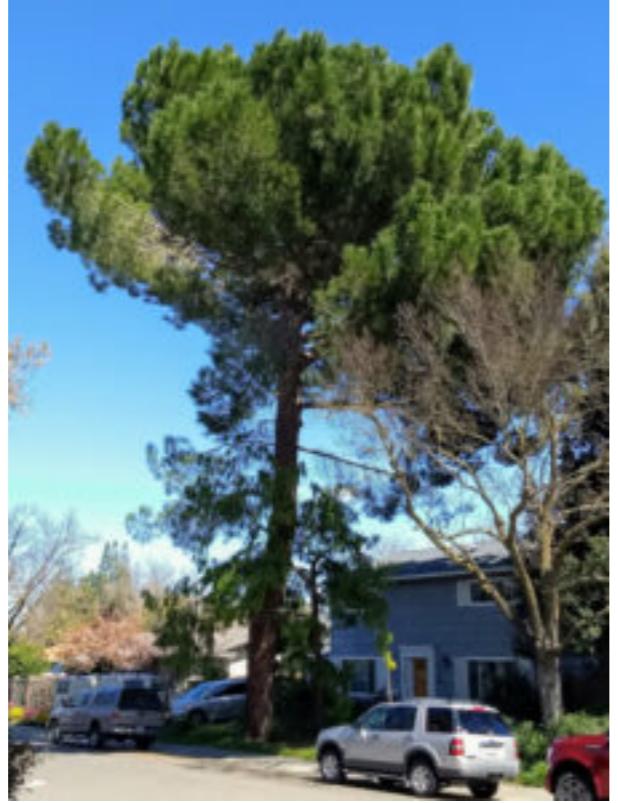


The massive scarlet oak on Antioch is nearly 100 feet tall and wide. Its summer shade attracts cars from around the neighborhood. Courtesy photo

The 56-year-old Chinese hackberry on Ninth Street has a 7.4-foot girth and 65-foot crown spread. During summer it blankets the street and sidewalks with shade. Courtesy photo

— Submitted by Dr. Greg McPherson, vice president, Tree Davis Board of Directors and retired U.S. Forest Service urban forest researcher.

Be part of the Tree Davis Great Tree Search when it begins again in the fall by nominating a tree you love and appreciate because of its species, size, form, history, or whatever. Readers will be able to nominate trees on-line by clicking on the Great Tree Search banner, downloading a paper form on the website at <http://www.treedavis.org/city-of-davis/gts-final-v2-2/>, or requesting a form at 530-757-7337.



This 55-year old Italian stone pine on Plum Lane creates a cool and contemplative space for meditation. Courtesy photo