

# Pepper tree will come down

By KAREN CLARK  
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Rev up the chain saws, the pepper tree will come down.

City Council members decided Tuesday that illness had won out and the Calvary Episcopal Church's pepper tree should be removed.

Church officials first sought permission last October to cut down the heritage tree at Cedar and Lincoln streets because oak root rot had taken its toll.

The city has moved slowly in an effort to find a way to save the tree, which is estimated to be more than 100 years old.

But tree experts have determined the soil-based disease has gone too far, and trying to save the tree only would prolong the inevitable.

In its vote to allow the heritage tree to be cut down, the council required that the replacement be at least a 48-inch-box size, prefera-

## Post office trees getting a trim

SANTA CRUZ — A tree crew will prune the carob trees in front of the post office today in an effort to show how properly trimmed trees could enhance the plaza planned for that area.

The carob trees had been targeted for removal, but the City Council two weeks ago narrowly decided to leave them.

Staff members had suggested that removing the trees would improve the plaza area outlined in the new streetscape plan by

opening it up.

But the majority of the council thought it wasn't necessary to remove the trees to have a good plaza area.

Jim Lang, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, said the crew from Treescape Professional Tree Trimming had volunteered to prune the trees today. "They want to show how nice the carob trees are, and how they can show off the post office if properly trimmed," said Lang.

bly larger.

The council asked staff to work with church officials to get a larger tree, even to consider the possibility of chipping in for the extra cost.

Staff estimated the cost of a 48-inch-box size tree could range up

to \$1,000, plus the cost of installation.

One replacement that's already been ruled out is another pepper tree. Experts said the disease will remain in the soil, and another pepper tree would be susceptible.