

Good evening,

Unfortunately, I'm feeling a little under the weather today and instead of exposing everyone, I'm writing what I would have been saying tonight.

I've owned and resided at this address for going on 32 years. I think this Sweet Gum tree has run its course and it is time to replace it with a tree on the City of Albany's Accepted Street Tree List. As we know, the planting of Sweet Gum trees is no longer permitted due to their weak limbs and the damage they cause to sidewalks.

Over the years, the tree in front of my home has caused broken water lines, downed power lines, and required the sidewalk to be repaired multiple times, most recently five years ago. As noted in the Tree Assessment Report from March 2023, the sidewalk has already risen an inch and is in need of repair again (see included photos). Additionally, the tree was recently trimmed in April 2023 and new large dead branches can already be observed today (see included photos).

Branches frequently fall on parked cars and this past winter a large limb required the City to use a chain saw to remove it from our car. We no longer park in front of our house during windy or rainy weather.

I continue to pull away large dead branches that have fallen onto the sidewalk and the bike lane that run under the tree. The sidewalk and bike lane are heavily travelled by children going to and from Albany High School and Albany Middle School. An injury from a falling or fallen branch is bound to occur.

It should also be noted that roots from the tree are now visible in the gutter pushing up the water meter, splitting the gutter, and lifting the street. These are all recent changes in the last 3 to 5 years. (See included photos).

I've notified the city numerous times over the years that the tree needs to be replaced, including Mayor Preston Jordan in 2022, who agreed the city needs to take more responsibility for the trees it planted so many years ago. If the city is not willing to replace the tree, I formally request in writing that the city will take responsibility for any future injury or damage the tree causes. I will be sorry to lose this tree that was once so beautiful, but I look forward to a less damaging, younger and healthier tree to replace it.

Thank you,

Jesse Nawy

Large dead branch, as indicated by the dead leaves, can be seen on the right side of the picture on this and next photo.







Lifting of sidewalk noted in next two photos.









Lifting of water meter, splitting of gutter, and lifting of street can be seen in the next three photos.









