

Oriental Tree Board
Tree History and Evaluation
500 Hodges Street

September 21, 2026

History:

At approximately 3:00 pm on Friday the 18th of September, it was reported that a limb had fallen from a willow oak at the corner of Hodges and Academy Streets. Images were sent.

- Friday at approximately 3:20, John Deaton arrived to inspect; upon arrival, it was noted that the town had already cleaned up the debris.
- A visual inspection revealed that two limbs had fallen from what looked like a secure limb, the breaks were flush with no apparent stranding of the fibers.
- The inspection revealed multiple dead limbs higher in the tree with decay being noted throughout most of the trunk.
- At the request of the town, Bob Miller was contacted to arrange for an inspection.

Saturday the 19th:

- Bob Miller inspected the tree, and he quickly identified the tree as a concern and shared that the tree needs to be removed. In addition, the neighboring large willow oak was inspected and found to be in a similar condition with improper pruning cuts and decay in much of the tree.
- Pamlico GIS indicates that the tree is partially in the town ROW and the property owners, Catherine Hawley and Timothy Harris from Jacksonville, NC.
- The second large tree appears to also share ownership with the neighbors Edward and Wendy Sheprow from Monroe, NC.
- According to signage, the house is a short-term rental facility.

September 21, 2026

- The tree was inspected and an estimate for the deadwood removal and complete tree removal was requested from Burl Toler of American Tree Company.
- The removal estimate is attached; the estimate includes both trees but should be considered separate if one tree is to be removed.
- Given the age and size of the trees, there is concern about the stump removal - while still potentially problematic, there is an estimate to surface grind the stumps to the yard elevation.
- Mark Boyd of Duke Power was contacted and a meeting to inspect the power lines was set, the inspection will take place at 2 pm on Tuesday the 22nd of September.

Diane Miller

From: John Deaton <jdeaton5543@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 9:05 AM
To: Town Manager; Robert Miller
Cc: Janet Chinae; Joan Pat Allen OTB; Philip Borders; Stephanie Carperos, OTB; Thomas Soderholm; Anne Frederick; lostendorff@townoforiental.com; Missy Tenhet; mark.boyd@duke-energy.com
Subject: 500 Hodges Street willow oak

Good morning,

I met with Mark Boyd, Jessica Shum's replacement at Duke Energy, concerning the willow oak that dropped the limbs last week. Mark offered to remove the three large leaders that are leaning towards the power lines on Hodges Street. The removal of these sections will remove the majority of the tree that poses a potential threat to public property - however, it will not remove the base of the primary limbs that shed the branches last week. In my opinion, the removal of the leaders will leave questionable limbs aloft and an unsightly tree that will beg to be removed, both of which I feel are valid reasons to follow through with the tree removal.

While Duke does not need permission to complete the removal, I think it would be a good approach to inform the owners of the property of the forthcoming removal and get them financially involved. If the owners do not want to contribute to the removal, then the power feed that crosses Academy can be dropped and the limbs that extend above the roadway can be removed without the removal of the remainder of the tree. While there is always the possibility of some other section of the tree dropping onto public property, I believe this action will remove the majority of the risk to the town at a greatly reduced cost.

With your input, direction and approval, I'm available to touch base with the owners and advise them of the situation.

John

American Tree Company

Paul Toler (owner)

252-229-0498 or 252-617-5339

americantreecompany1@gmail.com



Proposal

PROPOSAL NO.

SHEET NO.

DATE

9-21-26

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO:

WORK TO BE PERFORMED AT:

NAME

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

500 HODGES ST

ORIENTAL

DATE OF PLANS

PHONE NO.

670-6178 / JOHN DEATON

We hereby propose to furnish the materials and perform the labor necessary for the completion of

REMOVE 1 HARDWOOD (HODGES/ACADEMY ST)

CLEAN UP, NO STUMP WORK

4,000

OR SHALLOW GRIND STUMP

4,500

OR DEADWOOD ONLY, CLEAN UP

2,000

REMOVE 1 HARDWOOD (BY DRIVEWAY 500 HODGES

ST. CLEAN UP, NO STUMP WORK

6,500

OR SHALLOW GRIND STUMP

7,000



POWER/UTILITIES UNDER
GROUND, OVERHEAD CLOSE

All material is guaranteed to be as specified, and the above work to be performed in accordance with the drawings and specifications submitted for above work and completed in a substantial workmanlike manner for the sum of **SEE ABOVE**

Dollars (\$) with payments to be made as follows:

Note: American Tree Company is not responsible for any of the following and Homeowners will be responsible for: Fencing, Well/Septic tanks, yard, underground cables, lines of any kind, or concrete driveways. There is an additional charge for laying mats. Any fences or yard ornaments must be taken down/removed by owner at their own expense before job is to be done. Any alterations or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written order, and will become an extra charge over and above the estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. There will be a 10% cancellation fee.

☒ Lift ☐ Bucket truck ☒ Chipper ☒ Dump Truck ☒ Stump grinder ☒ Bobcat ☐ Log Truck ☒ Mini
☐ 1 ☒ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐ 24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26 ☐ 27 ☐ 28 ☐ 29 ☐ 30 ☐ 31 ☐ 32 ☐ 33 ☐ 34 ☐ 35 ☐ 36 ☐ 37 ☐ 38 ☐ 39 ☐ 40 ☐ 41 ☐ 42 ☐ 43 ☐ 44 ☐ 45 ☐ 46 ☐ 47 ☐ 48 ☐ 49 ☐ 50 ☐ 51 ☐ 52 ☐ 53 ☐ 54 ☐ 55 ☐ 56 ☐ 57 ☐ 58 ☐ 59 ☐ 60 ☐ 61 ☐ 62 ☐ 63 ☐ 64 ☐ 65 ☐ 66 ☐ 67 ☐ 68 ☐ 69 ☐ 70 ☐ 71 ☐ 72 ☐ 73 ☐ 74 ☐ 75 ☐ 76 ☐ 77 ☐ 78 ☐ 79 ☐ 80 ☐ 81 ☐ 82 ☐ 83 ☐ 84 ☐ 85 ☐ 86 ☐ 87 ☐ 88 ☐ 89 ☐ 90 ☐ 91 ☐ 92 ☐ 93 ☐ 94 ☐ 95 ☐ 96 ☐ 97 ☐ 98 ☐ 99 ☐ 100 ☐ Tracks ☒ Tires

* POWER MUST BE DROPPED / NOT RESPONSIBLE UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

The above prices, specifications, and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payments will be made as outlined above.

Signature

Signature

Date

Diane Miller

From: John Deaton <jdeaton5543@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:02 PM
To: Town Manager
Cc: Robert Miller; Joan Pat Allen OTB; Missy Tenhet; Stephanie Carperos, OTB; Thomas Soderholm; Janet Chinaea; Philip Borders; John Deaton; Anne Frederick; Lou Ostendorff, Commissioner; Chris Moffat; Heather Hall
Subject: Water oak @ 503 Church Street

Good afternoon,

After the water oak at 503 Church Street dropped a pair of limbs last week, I asked Bob Miller to inspect and offer an opinion on the condition of the tree. Given the lack of severe weather and the condition of the failure points, Bob offered the following:

- My overall assessment is that this tree will continue to shed branches in the future making it a high risk tree with abundant targets in the Street on the sidewalk and adjacent properties.

With Bob's professional opinion, I'm asking that the funds be requested to have the tree removed. It does appear that the tree is co-owned by the condo and the town, perhaps offering a sharing of the expense would be a good approach. I have touched base with American Tree for a quote, I'm happy to request a quote from another other company if needed / wanted. American Tree is scheduled to inspect and quote the removal of the tree and stump on Friday the 11th at 9 am.

John



DATE 9-11-26

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO:

WORK TO BE PERFORMED AT:

NAME

TOWN OF ORIENTAL

ADDRESS

501 CHURCH ST

ADDRESS

503 CHURCH ST

DATE OF PLANS

ORIENTAL

PHONE NO.

670-6178

We hereby propose to furnish the materials and perform the labor necessary for the completion of

REMOVE 1 HARDWOOD BETWEEN 501 AND APARTMENT BUILDING, CLEAN UP, NO STUMP WORK

501

APT BLD

X

CHURCH ST

OWNER AT 501 NEEDS TO BE ADVISED AND OWNER OF APARTMENT BUILDING. DUKE ENERGY MUST DROP LINE TO LIGHT

All material is guaranteed to be as specified, and the above work to be performed in accordance with the drawings and specifications submitted for above work and completed in a substantial workmanlike manner for the sum of 5,000

Dollars (\$) with payments to be made as follows

Note: American Tree Company is not responsible for any of the following and Homeowners will be responsible for: Fencing, Well/Septic tanks, yard, underground cables, lines of any kind, or concrete driveways. There is an additional charge for laying mats. Any fences or yard ornaments must be taken down/removed by owner at their own expense before job is to be done. Any alterations or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written order, and will become an extra charge over and above the estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. There will be a 10% cancellation fee.

☒ Lift ☐ Bucket truck ☒ Chipper ☒ Dump Truck ☐ Stump grinder ☒ Bobcat ☐ Log Truck ☒ Mini
☐ Excavator ☐ 1 ☒ 2 ☐ Lg ☐ Tracks ☐ Tires

Block (CLOSE) STREET OFF

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

The above prices, specifications, and conditions are satisfactory