

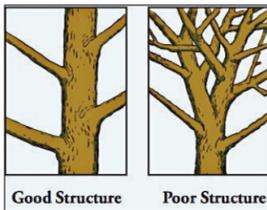
# It's prime time for tree pruning in the valley

City of Happy Valley

Winter is the perfect time to prune those trees in your yard and parking strip. This is because most plants are dormant during winter and shaping them now will promote better growth once spring hits. Although low temperatures mean you'll need to wear some extra layers while you're outside, completing this task in winter should be a bit easier this time of year since leaves have fallen and the tree's branch structure is clearly visible.

## Prepare

Before you begin, make sure you have some hand pruners, lopping shears, and a pruning saw. Which one you use will be entirely dependent on the branch size you're working with. Keep in mind that trees are living organisms and it is important to be thoughtful when pruning instead of hacking away at branches with wild abandon. Stand back and take a good look at your tree. The pruning cuts you make now will affect your tree in the future. Choose wisely, aiming for small cuts that encourage wound recovery. Utilize the "less is more" approach. As you prune, cut branches just

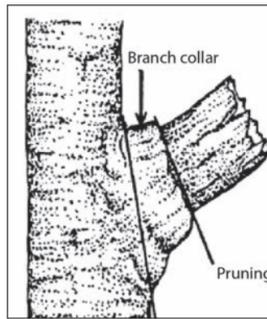


Balanced branch spacing is key to the pruning process. Illustration found at [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org).

outside the branch collar as this will preserve the trunk and minimize any permanent injury to the tree. As you go, try to think of the tree's limbs like scaffolding. You want your trees to have well-spaced branches, balanced in each direction radially, and one strong, central trunk.

## Pace yourself

There are some general measurements to keep in mind as you prune your trees. In Happy Valley, for example, City code requires trees have a 12-foot clearance above roadways and 8 feet clearance above sidewalks (16.42.030 E4). That means branches should not obstruct the pathway of emergency vehicles, cars and pedestrians, or overhang into the roadway. Use your imagination as you make your cuts



When pruning trees, it's important to make sure you don't cut too close to the trunk, but rather just outside what is referred to as the branch collar. Check out <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/crop-production/fruit-trees/tree-pruning-basics> for more helpful illustrations.

and try to visualize future growth. Do be careful as there is such a thing as over pruning. Doing this can cause a tree stress – remember, they are living creatures. Limit the total tree volume removed to no more than 25%.

A great resource to check out is the International Society of Arboriculture's website. Their information on pruning young trees is extremely helpful if you need something to



Winter is a great time to prune your residential trees and prepare for Spring. Are your trees ready?

reference. Head to [https://www.treesaregood.org/portals/0/docs/treecare/Pruning\\_YoungTrees.pdf](https://www.treesaregood.org/portals/0/docs/treecare/Pruning_YoungTrees.pdf) and keep the information handy.

## Get a head start

By Apr. 1, property owners in Happy Valley will be required to have any trees that encroach into the roadway

trimmed in preparation for 2020 Road Maintenance Program projects. Residents this will affect should have already received a letter from the City about this explaining any upcoming projects slated for work. Please note that for street slurry work, residents are being asked to make sure clearance above roadways is 14

## Is my tree supposed to look like that?

If you have a question about the health of a tree on your property, parking strip, shared space, or City owned property, contact City Arborist, Leslie Gover. Just Email [cityarborist@happyvalleyor.gov](mailto:cityarborist@happyvalleyor.gov)!

Helping the City's tree canopy remain lush and healthy is of benefit to everyone. By taking steps now to preserve the life of trees, we will be able to enjoy them for years to come.

feet as this will ensure there is adequate room for construction equipment to pass.

## Need some help figuring out this whole tree pruning thing?

City of Happy Valley residents can reach out to City Arborist/Horticulturalist, Leslie Gover, with questions about tree care. While she won't do the work for you, she will most certainly help walk you through the concepts and give advice on steps you can take to keep your trees healthy and sustainable. She can also provide guidelines when picking a private arborist or tree care company to help.

## Deca

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Founded in 1946, DECA, which stands for Distributive Education Clubs of America, is a career and technical student nonprofit that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs to be college and career ready in the fields of marketing, hospitality, finance and management.

Students enter projects in state and national competitions. Currently, there are over 200,000 high school DECA members representing 3,500 schools and 15,000 college members.

Schmidt and Akers have put on seven workshops to date and

have no more scheduled due to their DECA project deadline, but will have more next school year. They adapt the workshop curriculum to appeal to their specific audience. The curriculum includes professionalism, marketing, communication and networking, customer service and teamwork.

"The main benefit of this project is to get students of all ages engaged because of how we present our activities. We know from a student standpoint how boring it can become when you only receive lectures in school," Akers said.

Akers is on the CHS varsity golf team and plays the piano, cello and guitar. Schmidt, who played basketball before suffering an injury, is a member of the officer board at Sabin-Schellen-

berg DECA, the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society and volunteers at local elementary and middle schools.

Together, the two students are hoping to make a difference to improve their community and inspire others to become interested in professional careers.

"We understand how important learning real-life skills are, (and) that public schools are not required to teach us. Yet, the things we learn are given to us in a bland, repetitive and dry format that most students zone out from," Schmidt said. "Through our project, we plan to tackle both these problems in our school district, starting with young students. We also want to focus our attention on students and schools that may need more guidance based on city demographics."



Schmidt and Akers have enjoyed teaching at their workshops and connecting with young students hoping to inspire them to enter the business world. SUBMITTED PHOTO.



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## Real Estate REVIEW



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### Early Bird Sellers are Smiling!

The Christmas lights are down, and home sellers are smiling! With the current shortage of listings on the market, the Pending Signs are coming up early! Listing before the peak months of April and May will get your property more showings as there isn't as much to choose from. Your home may not be a perfect fit, but if a buyer needs a home soon, you are going to have more showings. We always suggest getting an early start in the selling season. The spring flowers are early, and if you're thinking of selling, we're ready to talk Real Estate. Just give us a call. Chris & Jill have over 30 years of experience selling East County! We are hands on, and you deal directly and only with us!



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1: APY= Annual Percentage Yield. Rates effective as of 5/03/19 and subject to change at any time. 3.00% Rate applies to balances up to \$15,000. Balances above \$15,000 will earn 0.25%.  
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