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Media Contact: Laura Aguilar, Public Information Officer

Agency Name: City of Sierra Madre

Email: [LAguilar@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:LAguilar@cityofsierramadre.com)

Telephone Number: 626.355-7135

Website: [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com)

## **WISTARIA VINE PRUNING**

### ***Sierra Madre, CA. – September 13, 2021***

The City was notified over the weekend of concerns about the Wistaria Vine being removed or pruned. The owners of the property located on Hermosa Avenue have asserted their desire to preserve the Wistaria Vine, advising the City that the Vine is overgrown and needs to be trimmed as part of general maintenance for the over-all health of the Vine and to mitigate rodent infestation. Trimming and regular maintenance of the vine is allowed and does not require City approval.

The Vine is not a protected species. Nevertheless, the City intends to work with the owners of the property to ensure that all work performed is accomplished with consideration and preservation of the Vine. The City has also requested that the homeowner provide a report from a certified arborist and botanist that includes the health of the Vine and impacts that any structural changes to the home and deck would have on the Vine.

The Vine, a Chinese wistaria, was planted from a 75-cent gallon can in 1892. The plant is named in honor of Caspar Wistar (1761-1818). He was an American physician whose accomplishments included writing the first book on anatomy.

In the early 1900's, the vine grew into the walls of the original house and caused the roof to collapse. Mr. Fennel, the homeowner at the time, abandoned the house and built a new home 200 feet to the north and trained the vine to grow up to that home. The old home was torn down in 1931, but a portion of the original foundation was saved to continue to give support to the growing vine.

Today the Vine covers more than an acre and sits on the properties of two separate private residences in northern Sierra Madre.

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