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Restaurant construction leads to loss of trees

By KYRA KITLOWSKI

COLLEGIAN REPORTER

If you haven't had the chance to see the 60-foot elm trees located at the new Boston Chicken at the intersection of South Lemay and Pennock Place, this is your last time to see them.

The two Siberian Elm trees, valued at \$5,450, are being taken down due to severe root damage incurred during construction of the restaurant.

"The construction of the restaurant was that they had to build a driveway out of concrete. The trench machine just got too close to the trees and chopped up the roots. The roots looked like what happens to a car when it gets totaled," Ted Shepard of the planning department said.

The removal of the trees was not in the city's development plan.

"I don't want to point any fingers, but I do know the city was not at fault," Shepard said.

For safety reasons the trees must now be removed.

"In a year or so they will just die and fall over into the street which could cause a lot

"I don't want to point any fingers, but I do know the city was not at fault."

**TED SHEPARD
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

of damage," Shepard said.

Removal of the trees began Monday by Jordan's Tree Moving & Maintenance.

Boston Chicken has agreed to compensate the city by replacing the Elm trees with two large-caliper street trees. They will also plant 40 new, deciduous street trees along commercial corridors in Fort Collins, particularly on South College Avenue.

"Our expectation is the same as the city's: That good trees should be preserved and protected, and we would never have knowingly destroyed these. We will compensate the city immediately and look forward to working with the city in the future as a good neighbor," Mark Nelson, Boston Chicken real estate manager, said.



T. SAM MOORE/THE COLLEGIAN

Remnants of two 50 year old elm trees sit in front of the new Boston Chicken restaurant on Lemay Avenue. The trees were chopped down yesterday after the roots were destroyed when the contractor, Westec Construction, cut into them to make the entrance into the parking lot big enough. The contractor was trapped between two departments of the city, Forestry, who wanted to save the trees, and Engineering, who wanted to make the entrance meet regulations and be safe.