

So what does it take to undecorate and remove the 55-foot Capitol Christmas tree standing on the West Lawn which is adorned with over 500 ornaments and 10,000 LED lights? Answer: two tree maintenance workers from Dept. of General Services; one decent-sized scissors lift; an electrician; a chainsaw; and a wood grinder. **Michael Liang** with DGS says the tree maintenance workers will spend nearly two full-time days going up and down on the scissors lift removing ornaments and lights, packing them and driving them to a downtown warehouse for storage. The electrician, who isn't on site very long, comes by to unhook the lights from their power source. The chainsaw and wood grinder come in on the third day, but for only about half an hour. Maybe it seems a bit sad that the once glorious tree meets such a severe demise, however, the resulting mulch is put to useful purposes throughout Capitol Park. The tree might have been down already, **Liang** says, if not for a suggestion made six or seven years ago that the Capitol keep its tree standing until after Greek Orthodox Christmas, which DGS thought a good idea. According to **Liang**, the Greek Orthodox day of observation was yesterday and he expects the West Lawn to soon lose its holiday spirit. Contact: Liang 916 376 1821.