

Not so suite: 'Nutcracker' canceled this year

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Enterprise staff witer

For the first time in 44 years, there will be no "Davis Children's Nutcracker" in December.

No dancing forest fairy, no marching tin soldiers, no mouse king falling from the fireplace and no Clara finding her prince. Nor will 250 Davis children between the ages of 6 and 12 spend hours between Thanksgiving and mid December rehearsing their roles for the beloved Davis production, put on every year by the city's community services department.

As it has so many times before in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic will cause the cancellation of

yet another local tradition.

"Current county and state guidelines prohibit group gatherings from outside households and restrict indoor activities," a press release from the city noted on Friday. "These limitations make planning and implementing events, especially an event the size of 'The Nutcracker,' unfeasible."

The "Children's Nutcracker" would likely qualify as a super-spreader event if it took place, with hundreds of children rehearsing in rooms large and small throughout the Veterans Memorial Center, not to mention the packed theater every night of the show's run in December.

Also canceled on Friday, Neighbors' Night Out, the annual event that brings neighbors together, often celebrated with block parties and other gatherings throughout Davis.

The city does plan to install a holiday tree at E Street Plaza as in years past, but "it is unlikely that the traditional parade and tree-lighting ceremony can take place," the city said.

For information on the "Nutcracker" cancellation, email csweb@cityofdavis.org or call 530-757-5626. For more on the Neighbors' Night Out cancellation, contact the city manager's office at cmoweb@cityofdavis.org or 530-757-5602.