



By **Bill Parsons**, Vice Chairman, Seven Oaks CDD

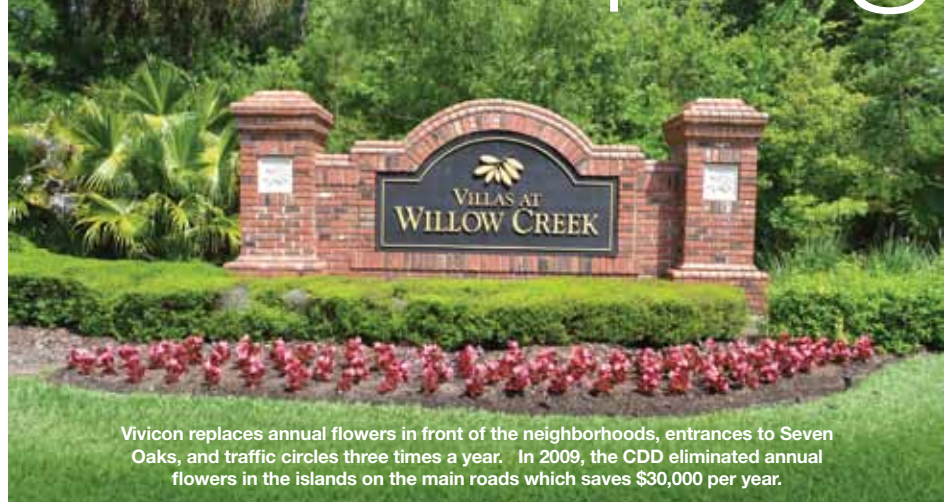


## SEVEN OAKS

# Landscaping

**V**ivicon which had been in business since 1989 has been the Seven Oaks landscape contractor since Crown Community Development hired them in 2002. When Crown needed a landscaper for the areas of Seven Oaks that they had developed, they asked for bids and the following three landscaping companies bid on the proposal: Vivicon (\$217,361), Stewart & Associates (\$233,460), and Sunrise Landcare (\$309,433). As Crown continued to develop Seven Oaks, the amount of common area that needed to be landscaped grew. Each time a new area was added to their contract, Vivicon would increase their price to cover the additional landscaping maintenance requirement so the \$217,361 has continued to increase. Last year, we paid Vivicon \$981,476.64 for landscaping maintenance of Seven Oaks.

Vivicon employs 30-35 full time employees to handle 21 contracts in both Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. For Seven Oaks, Ken Roth, who is



Vivicon replaces annual flowers in front of the neighborhoods, entrances to Seven Oaks, and traffic circles three times a year. In 2009, the CDD eliminated annual flowers in the islands on the main roads which saves \$30,000 per year.

President of Vivicon and has a Horticulturist Degree from Purdue University, hired Bill Conrad to supervise the Seven Oaks landscaping project. During April - October, Bill supervises about 11-13 Vivicon

employees at Seven Oaks five days a week to do the mowing, edging, and trimming. In addition, there are another 10-12 employees two days a week to mow, edge, and trim the parks.



Vivicon uses a lift bucket to trim the palm trees twice a year.



The pictures on this page show Vivicon employees mowing, trimming, and spraying insecticides. Some projects such as replacing annual flowers, trimming palm trees, and adding mulch are only done a few times a year. Although Vivicon does not maintain our irrigation system, they work closely with the CDD employees who do maintain it. For example, if they see some grass starting to turn brown, they will alert the irrigation maintenance people. It also works in reverse in case the irrigation maintenance people see a potential problem with the landscaping. ❖



Bill Conrad, Vivicon's Landscaping Project Manager at Seven Oaks, gives instructions to one of the workers.

