

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

OAK TREE REMOVAL PLAN APPROVED BY COUNTY

CDD Board Implements First Phase - Amberside, Brookforest, Coventry, Springwood, & The Laurels

The CDD Board was briefed at their meeting on October 16 that Pasco County approved the Seven Oaks plan to remove 2,120 oak trees between the sidewalks/streets in the neighborhoods and 35 trees not in the neighborhoods. The plan also included planting 2,237 replacement trees.

As explained in the CDD article in the September 2013 Seven Oaks News, the plan contains five phases. At the October meeting, we requested our Community Manager to obtain proposals for removing the oak trees and planting replacement trees in the first phase (i.e. Amberside, Brookforest, Coventry, Springwood, and The Laurels) and proposals for all five phases.

Amberside: 83 oak trees will be removed. The 82 replacement trees will consist of 26 Walters Viburnums, 25 Ligustrums, 25 Nellie Stevens Holly, and 6 White Crape Myrtles.

Brookforest: 86 oak trees will be removed. The 123 replacement trees will consist of 48 Yaupon Holly, 47 Ligustrums, 13 White Crape Myrtles, 9 Bald Cypresses, and 6 Red Maples.

Coventry: 52 oak trees will be removed. The 37 replacement trees will consist of 15 Ligustrums, 13 Walters Viburnums, and 9 Nellie Stevens Holly.

Springwood: 87 oak trees will be removed. The 92 replacement trees will consist of 34 Nellie Stevens Holly, 32 Yaupon Holly, 14 Bottlebrushes, and 12 Ligustrums.

The Laurels: 46 oak trees will be removed. The 46 replacement trees will consist of 18 Yaupon Holly, 14 Ligustrums, and 14 Bottlebrushes.

At the November 13, 2013 CDD meeting, the Board considered bids in response to the proposals. Each bid had the cost to do just phase 1 or phases 1-5 over a five year period. After considering the bids, the Board decided to award a contract for phase 1 and obtain new bids for the remaining four phases when phase 1 is completed.

Remove oak trees/plant sod: The Board selected Arbor-Tech Environmental Group, who bid \$38,702.82 to remove 354 oak trees, which is \$109.33 per tree.

Purchase replacement trees: Marshall Tree Farm was the lowest bidder at \$74,110. He could not provide two species so the Board selected the second lowest bidder to provide these at \$18,727 plus a delivery charge.

Plant replacement trees: The two bids were \$63,000 and \$95,027. The Board selected Arbor-Tech Environmental Group, who bid \$63,000.

Maps showing the location of replacement trees can be seen on the Seven Oaks website. Additional details can be obtained by reading CDD articles in the Seven Oaks News past issues (February 2012, December 2012, March 2013, and September 2013) newsletters. These articles are also on the Seven Oaks website.

OAK TREE REMOVAL BACKGROUND SUMMARY

August 2009: At the PACA meeting, The Groves CDD Chairman passed on information that their oak trees between the sidewalk and street were raising sidewalks and we may have the same issue.

September 16, 2009: CDD Board votes to approve the oak trees as one of the long term improvements.

January 11, 2012: Commissioner Mulieri and members of the Pasco County Staff attended CDD meeting to explain county's new ordinance.

March 1, 2012: CDD Board received a report from PHC Professional, Inc.

May 8, 2012: Report from Pasco and Hillsborough County Extension Office.

October 10, 2012: CDD Board voted to remove oak trees between the sidewalks and streets and replace them with another species accommodating the root space.

November 10, 2012: Two workshops held at clubhouse.

November 2012: Ron Litts, certified arborist, was hired to prepare an oak tree removal plan.

December 28, 2012: Plan submitted to Pasco County to remove 1,810 oak trees between sidewalks and streets and 35 not in neighborhoods.

March 16, 2013: Workshop held at clubhouse.

April 17, 2013: Meeting with Commissioner Mulieri to resolve issues with Pasco County approving the plan submitted. Pasco County agreed to accept what we had submitted for removal of trees, and we agreed to add a phasing portion.

May 2013: CDD Board hired Anderson Lesniak Limited, Inc. to prepare the phasing portion of the plan.

August 21, 2013: CDD Board approved phasing plan that included 2,071 replacement trees presented by Alyson Utter of Anderson Lesniak Limited, Inc.

August 29, 2013: Number of oak trees increased from 1,845 to 2,155 to include ones that have been or will be planted since December 28, 2012.

September 6, 2013: Phasing plan revised to include areas where remaining houses will be built. Increased replacement trees from 2,071 to 2,237.

October 16, 2013: Scott Brizendine briefed the Board that Pasco County had approved the plan.

November 13, 2013: CDD Board selected bids to implement the first phase (Amberside, Brookforest, Coventry, Springwood, and The Laurels).

REPLACEMENT TREES FOR AMBERSIDE, BROOKFOREST, COVENTRY, SPRINGWOOD, & THE LAURELS



Bottlebrush



Nellie Stevens Holly



Yaupon Holly



White Crape Myrtle



Ligustrum



Walters Viburnum



Red Maple



Bald Cypress

The tree pictures above were taken at the nursery. The trees to be delivered to Seven Oaks will be 10 feet tall and “limbed up” to insure street clearance. This will give the trees a more attractive appearance than the ones pictured above.

One of the problems that we had with the oak trees at Seven Oaks was their poor quality, being grown incorrectly, and incorrectly planted. Our arborist will insure we only receive Florida #1 or better trees and ones that have been grown and

planted correctly. Another issue with the oak trees was improper maintenance. To prevent this problem, the CDD accepted the responsibility for maintaining them. The replacement trees will have gator bags that will slowly release water for the newly

planted trees. In addition, the trees will be added to the landscaping contract after the one year warranty to insure they are maintained properly. For the remaining neighborhoods, these eight species plus three other species will be used.