



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

## 354 OAK TREES REMOVED IN DECEMBER

Oak Trees Removed Were in Amberside, Brookforest, Coventry, Springwood, & The Laurels

As soon as the CDD Board made the decision at the November 13, 2013 CDD meeting on which contractors to use for the first of five phases of the Oak Tree Removal Plan, Scott Brizendine, District Manager, started the process to complete the project. He immediately finalized the contract with Arbor-Tech Environmental Group, who would remove the oak trees, plant sod, and plant the replacement trees. He also finalized the contract with Marshall Tree Farm and Aventura Nursery & Landscape, Inc., who the CDD Board selected to provide the replacement trees.

With the contracts in place, Scott set up a site meeting with Ron Litts, the arborist that the CDD had hired to prepare the Oak Tree Removal Plan, and Mike Rose, principle from Arbor-Tech Environmental Group. During this meeting, they worked out a plan to remove the 354 oak trees in the first phase, plant sod during the last two weeks of December

2013, and plant replacement trees during the first part of January 2014. Scott sent a letter with this information to each resident in the first phase. A final planning meeting was held on December 13 prior to the oak tree removal starting on December 17.

At the final planning meeting, the details of the project were discussed to include the following on the removal of the oak trees: buried utilities between the sidewalks and streets, what equipment would be on site, how items such as curbing around the trees would be treated, the order trees would be removed by neighborhood, and what the tree removal area would look like when finished. For planting the new replacement trees, they discussed placing flags where the replacement trees would go, using different color flags to represent the different species of trees, how many trees they would plant each day, which neighborhoods would be planted each day, and how the trees would be planted to include the size of the hole.

The main concern on removing the oak trees and planting sod was to insure that the area where each oak tree was removed would look like there had not been a tree in this location. To help insure that this would be the result, Scott prepared a spreadsheet with the address of each house. Before the contractor was paid, a representative from Arbor-Tech and a representative from the CDD was required to sign off on each house confirming that the area in front of that house looked like a tree was not in that area.

The extensive planning for implementing the first phase and the daily monitoring by Scott Brizendine, Tyree Brown (Rizzetta's Operations Manager), and especially Ron Litts during December 17-31 helped insure the right oak trees were removed and the sod was planted in a manner that was specified in the contract. For the next phases, we will try to reduce the time between tree removal and clean up. The CDD article next month will be about planting the 380 replacement trees in these five neighborhoods.



L-R: Tyree Brown (Operations Manager, Rizzetta), Scott Brizendine (CDD District Manager), Mike Rose (Arbor-Tech), and Ron Litts (Arborist) at a planning meeting concerning removing oak trees in first phase.



Arbor-Tech employees cut notch in the tree trunk prior to pushing it over.



Arbor-Tech employees getting trees ready to put in the grinder



Arbor-Tech employees put oak trees in the grinder.



Arbor-Tech employees remove excess dirt and prepare area for sod.



David Johnson, Tampa Stump Removal, grinds down the stump of one of the oak trees cut down.



Arbor-Tech employees lay sod where oak tree was removed.



Ron Litts, Arborist, and Darren Jenne, Arbor-Tech Environmental Group Principle, inspect the sod to insure it meets specifications in the contract.