

OVER 1,000 OAK TREES AT SEVEN OAKS GET STRUCTURALLY PRUNED



The above picture was taken on February 5, 2015 as Mid Florida Tree Service was pruning oak trees on Ancient Oaks Blvd north of the power lines.



BEFORE



AFTER



Most residents know that the CDD decided to remove the oak trees between the sidewalks and streets in 23 neighborhoods and plant trees suitable for this area. But many of the residents do not realize that this will still leave over 1,000 oak trees along the boulevards and in the parks.

To keep these oak trees healthy, the CDD had them structurally pruned. In March 2014 Mid Florida Tree Service structur-

ally pruned the 398 oak trees on CDD property south of the power lines for \$28,100. The pruning of the 624 oak trees north of the power lines was delayed until the next fiscal year (October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015) so it could be included in the budget. When the CDD Board was presented with a bid for \$48,090 from Mid Florida Tree Service and a bid for \$43,680 from Joe's Tree Service and Landscaping, Inc., the Board chose Joe's Tree Service to prune the 624 trees.

In October 2014, Joe's Tree Service & Landscaping started structurally pruning the oak trees north of the power lines. When Tyree Brown, Rizzetta's operational manager, inspected the work they were doing, he recommended, the CDD Board terminate their contract. The CDD Board agreed to pay Joe's Tree Service \$20,000 for the trees they had already pruned. The Board approved a contract with Mid Florida Tree Service to prune the remaining oak trees for \$30,240.



Mid-Florida crews prune an oak tree on Summergate Blvd.



Mid-Florida crew drag the trimmed branches from an oak tree on Summergate Blvd to their truck to be ground into mulch.



Joe's Tree Service crew structurally prunes an oak tree by the pond near Bellafield

Why the CDD Board is Structurally Pruning the Oak Trees at Seven Oaks

When the CDD Board hired Ron Litts, who is a certified arborist, to evaluate the oak trees at seven oaks, one of his recommendations was to structurally prune the oak trees that will remain. Vivicon, our landscaper at the time, had been pruning the oak trees to insure they did not interfere with pedestrian or vehicle traffic, but their contract did not include structural pruning.

According to Tyree Brown, an arborist at Rizzetta who monitors our landscaping, "Structural pruning has one primary objective: to develop and maintain structurally stable trees. Structural pruning performed on most tree species that become large at maturity, promotes longevity by reducing tree failure, can decrease future maintenance costs, reduces conditions that could place people or property at risk, and sustains environmental benefits to the community."



The truck and grinder that Mid-Florida used to ground up the tree limbs as soon as they were removed from the trees on Summergate Blvd.