

# South Bay Homeowners Association, Inc.

## *Tree Risk Assessment*

*July 1, 2014*

As you all know, the trees within South Bay are a unique feature and important asset of our community. Recognizing the importance of our trees and the increasing age of our urban forest, your Board contracted with the Advanced Tree Care, Inc. to conduct a risk assessment of all the trees located on common property throughout our South Bay community. This Level – 2 Basic Assessment for tree health and structure was recently completed and the results are now posted on the South Bay HOA website.

The South Bay Tree Inventory and Risk Assessment Report details the arborist's finding for each of the 245 trees assessed, including recommended maintenance work – from pruning to removal in the case of trees that have been identified as high risk. The Board is now studying this report and will develop a plan of action to address the high risk trees and a care and maintenance program to extend the life this valued asset. The Board will work with Advance Tree Care to select the appropriate tree pruning company to ensure the necessary maintenance work is performed according to the latest techniques. The plan will also include tree replacement where trees must be removed due to health or structural issues.

Based on the findings of Advance Tree Care's report, **the Board strongly recommends that each homeowner have a risk assessment performed on the trees on their property.** Although the arborist did not assess trees located on homeowner's property, they did provide the Board with a Level - 1 basic assessment observation of trees along the South Bay streets. That report indicates a result similar to that of the trees assessed on common property – that many homeowner trees are in similar condition and age to community trees and need attention; some before the upcoming storm season as they present potential risk to street traffic or homes.

Advanced Tree Care, Inc., Certified Arborists of the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, is willing to provide a risk assessment for the trees on your property at a 'special group rate' of \$30.00 per tree, provided that enough homeowners participate. Certain arborists may offer "free" tree assessments, but their opinions may be influenced by a financial interest in doing your tree work. The Board chose Advanced Tree Care partially because they were not candidates to do any subsequent work.

By reviewing the South Bay Tree Inventory and Risk Assessment Report and Advance Tree Care website ([www.shadetreexpert.com](http://www.shadetreexpert.com)) you can get a good feel for their experience, expertise and work they will perform for you.

If you are interested, please e-mail the Grounds Committee to indicate your interest. [E-mail: [jon.freund@SouthBayHOA.org](mailto:jon.freund@SouthBayHOA.org)]. Please include the following information: Name, Street Address, Phone number, email, and Number of trees to be assessed.

If there are a sufficient number of homeowners (trees), we will proceed with the group assessment program with Advanced Tree Care. We will e-mail you an Advanced Tree Care order form along with instructions on payment to Advance Tree Care. Although the Grounds Committee will help Advanced Tree Care coordinate this important effort, please note, that any agreement for services to be provided by Advanced Tree Care shall be between Advanced Tree Care and the respective member/owner of the lot on which service shall be performed.

Sincerely,

Jon Freund

Paula Peterson

SBHOA Grounds Committee

**Notes:**

Please note that your participation, although not required, is strongly encouraged. If, instead, you would rather meet with a certified arborist other than Advance Tree Care, the Board of Directors strongly encourages you to do so. Lastly, remember that all members shall comply with the Association's governing documents, including but not limited to its Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions and Architectural Review Board Planning Criteria.

This informational letter is presented by and exclusively for the members of South Bay Homeowners Association, Inc. An arborist, by definition, is an individual trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining individual trees. Arborists are knowledgeable about the needs of trees and are trained and equipped to provide proper care.

Hiring an arborist is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Proper tree care is an investment that can lead to substantial returns. Well-cared-for trees are attractive and can add considerable value to your property. Poorly maintained trees can be a significant liability. Pruning or removing trees, especially large trees, can be dangerous work. Tree work should be done only by those trained and equipped to work safely in trees.