

# FIREWISE CEDARVIEW CLEAN UP

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT



Firewise Cedarview came together on May 7th, the NFPA Preparedness Day.

Starting our work at 8:30, we all appreciated the cool morning. We were ready to accomplish our day's goal, to clear the corner of Littler Fuller and Gina. Many members of our group as well as friends and neighbors who saw the ongoing work pitched in. I started by putting out safety cones, as Randie and Carol (a neighbor) helped to mark the spot with Firewise signage.



Then, the work truly began. Dave (a neighbor) brought his tractor, along with chainsaws and assorted tools, and Tom (another neighbor) brought his truck to pull the dump trailer I had rented from Sonora Rentals. Randie and Michelle (friends) brought knowledge and a willingness for hard work, as they cut and carried branches and brambles, and did anything that was needed.

Paulette (a neighbor) attacked the blackberries with a vengeance, intent on getting the berries untangled from the cedar tree nearby. And by golly, with help from Ellen (a friend), success was had at last, as the two carried blackberry brambles into the tractor. Jim (a neighbor) clipped and clipped and loaded into the tractor.

Barry and his wife Darlene (neighbors) brought chainsaws, clippers, and other assorted tools, all of which were put to use. Barry cut down the big trees and bushes that had to go, including a beautiful big oak that had split half way down and needed to come down. It had become hung up in another tree's branches, so that presented quite the challenge. Jerry (TUCARE) helped with all that brush clearing and cutting.



While one group of volunteers were starting at one end, Cory and Robert were at the other end, cutting down dead trees, piling up brush, carrying the dead vegetation to the roadside, clipping and cutting and stacking.

I was doing a little bit of everything, all except the cutting. Chainsaws scare me. I've decided I'm too old to play with that toy.

## ***FIREWISE CEDARVIEW CLEANUP, cont'd***

We worked until noon, then took a lunch break. Some, who had worked hard all morning, needed to leave, but many remained for the afternoon. The afternoon went just as well as the morning, considering the weather which was perfect for outside work. Tom delivered three loads to the slash pile, and Dave went the next day with one more load. We removed 20 yards of slash from that little corner. Although I can see there is a little bit more to do, I know it will get done, Tom, Dave and Randie have already volunteered to help finish the job.



The day's work reminded me that this is the greatest community I could imagine, with neighbor helping neighbor. I may live alone, but I know my neighbors are here to support me. I hope they all know I would run to help them if they needed it. Thanks to everyone that made this happen. As you drive by Little Fuller and Gina Ave, take a look at our handy work. In my eyes, it looks great and is now much more FIREWISE.