

# SUGARMILL WOODS

# CIVIC ASSOCIATION

March 2007  
Newsletter



108 Cypress Boulevard West  
Homosassa, Florida 34446

## Two Major Studies Underway

The Association Board of Directors has approved two professional studies: one of the valuable Greenbelt and another to anticipate noise levels should the Suncoast Parkway<sup>2</sup> be built adjacent to the development.



A team of scientists from Florida University is studying the flora and fauna of the Greenbelt and will report its findings and make its recommendations for the preservation of the area this Spring.

“Our Greenbelt is a major asset to our community, unrivaled by other developments, not only in Florida, but in the nation. It is our duty and our challenge to preserve it”, President Skip Christensen told residents attending the Association's Annual meeting.

An early study of noise abatement for the potential Parkway construction is vital if noise levels are to be considered in the planning stages.

“Once the plans are drawn, it will be too late to protest noise factors,” says Christensen.

While the route hasn't been firmed up, the highway, if built, will be built to the east of the Progress Energy transmission line. The Association will lobby for it to be constructed at least a half mile east of the powerline.

## Crime Watch Begins 10th Year

A white car emblazoned with “Citizens on Patrol” on its fender has been circulating through the streets of Sugarmill Woods for nine years.

Sponsored by the Sheriff's Office, the vehicle is manned by volunteer residents of the community who work a two hour shift every other week. They patrol each neighborhood zone once a day. About 100 drivers are on the alert for any suspicious activities as they make their rounds. It is their assignment to quickly report anything out of the ordinary to the proper authorities.

The Crime Watch program is credited with helping Sugarmill Woods maintain one of the lowest crime rates in Citrus County.

The driver roster is in constant flux. New drivers are always needed as is financial support from the community. The Civic Association makes an annual contribution and residents are encouraged to be generous, as well.

The Crime Watch web site is:

<http://web.tampabay.rr.com/smwcw/index/html>.

To volunteer as a driver or to make a financial gift, contact Dan Farrell, President of Crime Watch at 8 Poplar Court, North or 382-7810.

## Association Supports County Water Takeover

Utility Committee members closely followed the negotiations for the sale of Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) and the Association approves of its acquisition by Citrus County.

The construction of two new wells and a 500,000 gallon storage tank are either underway or planned and should ensure an adequate supply of water to accommodate the residential needs plus the requirements of the commercial construction in the immediate vicinity.

As it has for many years, the Association will continue to monitor water and sewer issues that affect Sugarmill residents. President Christensen reported at the annual meeting that the Association has an ample treasury to allay any future costs that may be required for rate negotiations or other matters of vital concern.

On a related matter, SWIFTMUD (the regional water authority) appears on the verge of ordering “inverted rates”, in short: the more you use, the more you pay.

While the Association does not oppose “inverted rates”, it will lobby SWIFTMUD to increase the daily allotment of water usage above the 150 gallon per person current target. The argument is that limit is impractical for a community with relatively large lots and landscaping.

The Association is also urging the county to develop water conservation measures and enforcement practices.

## **New Political Action Committee Formed**

At the Association's organizational meeting in January, a political action committee was created at the request of President Skip Christensen.

"We concern ourselves with issues that affect our community, but have no procedure in place to follow through. It is time we develop a more sophisticated plan designed to have maximum impact on local and state decision makers,"he told the Board as he urged the Committee's creation.

It is the belief of Christensen and other Board members that, being located in the far southwest corner of the county, Sugarmill Woods is often "out of sight, out of mind".

Larry Dolson, a former union attorney who moved here from San Diego, California, was named chairman of the committee to take advantage of his extensive experience working with political leaders at the local, state and federal levels.

The committee has determined that the Suncoast Parkway2 and continuing water matters are the top priority issues to command its attention.

On the Parkway, the objective is to strive for minimum impact to the Sugarmill community.

Water and waste water concerns will always be a subject for close monitoring to ensure the supply and quality for its residents as future development of the area creates an expanding need.



*The Association's newly-formed Political Action Committee held its initial meeting in February to discuss issues of importance to residents of Sugarmill Woods and to craft plans of action to exert influence. Left to right: Warren Blodgett, Richard Eisner, Ed Schiiler, Committee Chairman Larry Dolson, Debbie Faunce, Vice President Bob Hettrich and Duane Dueker.*

## **Join Our E-Mail Network**

With some frequency, the Association alerts residents to developments that may affect them. It is done in a timely manner using an e-mail data base. The data base is used for informational purposes only and is shared with no one for any other purpose.

To be included, contact [info@sugarmillcivic.org](mailto:info@sugarmillcivic.org).

## **Have an Outage? Report It!**

The Civic Association received a thank you from a resident for its help in getting Progress Energy to replace failing electrical lines and equipment on Redbay Court West.

The Association contacted Progress Energy recounting the many electrical outages in the Redbay Court area. The company responded.

Residents who experience repeated power outages with electric service should contact the utility company directly each time.

***Progress Energy ~ 1-800-228-8485***  
***Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative ~ 795-4382***

In addition, the Association's Utilities Committee asks the residents to send an e-mail to [utilities@sugarmillcivic.org](mailto:utilities@sugarmillcivic.org) summarizing the problem and the company's response.

The Committee will create a file to be used in future appeals to the utility companies for improved service.

## **Warning From Nature Coast EMS**

The Nature Coast Emergency Medical Service has distributed a notice that it is not affiliated with ANY fund raising organizations!

Beware of those phone calls asking you to help our emergency personnel. The local operation is not a recipient of those donations.

## **Board Reelects Officers**

At its organizational meeting in January, the 2007 Board of Directors reelected the following officers: Skip Christensen, President; Bob Hettrich, Vice President; Pat Schuessler, Treasurer; and Norm Wagye, Secretary.

## **Annual Newcomer Reception**

Wayne and Ronnie Johnson register with Debra Dolson at the Civic Association's annual reception for new residents held in February at the Sugarmill Woods Country Club. The Johnsons moved to Sugarmill in November from Waukesha, WI. Representatives from more than 20 community organizations were on hand to welcome new residents and invite them to join in the activities available in Sugarmill.



## Three New Members Join the Board



Newly elected Board members Larry Dolson, Warren Blodgett and Duane Dueker have begun attending monthly Board meetings at the fire station on Oak Park Boulevard. The Board meets the second Monday

of every month at 3:00 PM. Re-elected to the Board were Bob Hettrich, Vice President and Membership Chair Nancy Weber.

## Membership Drive in Final Stage

One last appeal is underway for residents to join the Civic Association for 2007. Dues for one year are \$15.00.

Membership normally hovers around the 2000 mark. This is a disappointment to President Christensen and the Board.

"With more than 4000 households, we receive support from less than half of them while the work we strive to do is for the benefit of all of them. *Your support is needed to ensure Sugarmill Woods continues to be a premier community!*"

Membership letters are in the mail to those who have not renewed and a membership application blank can be found in the front of the Sugarmill telephone directory.

***This Newsletter is published by the Sugarmill Woods Civic Association as a community service to all residents of Sugarmill Woods.***

### **Board of Directors**

President ~ Skip Christensen  
Vice President ~ Bob Hettrich  
Secretary ~ Norm Wagy  
Treasurer ~ Pat Schuessler

### **Members**

Warren Blodgett ~ Larry Dolson ~ Duane Dueker  
Richard Eisner ~ Debbie Faunce ~ Ross Knudsen  
Madelyn McCorkle ~ Ardath Prendergast  
Ed Schiller ~ Nancy Weber

### **2007 Committee Assignments**

*(Chairperson listed first)*

Finance ~ Pat Schuessler & Skip Christensen  
Public Relations ~ Norm Wagy, Madelyn McCorkle, Warren Blodgett  
Membership ~ Nancy Weber  
Community ~ Bob Hettrich  
Planning Board ~ Ross Knudsen  
Utilities ~ Ed Schiller, Warren Blodgett, Larry Dolson  
Long Range ~ Richard Eisner, Debbie Faunce, Larry Dolson  
Political Action ~ Larry Dolson, Debbie Faunce, Bob Hettrich  
Parkway ~ Skip Christensen, Duane Dueker, Bob Hettrich  
Website ~ Ardath Prendergast

**www.sugarmillcivic.org**

## Annual Meeting Draws Record Crowd

More than 300 residents crowded the West Citrus Elks Lodge in January to attend the Civic Association's Annual meeting.

After a review of the past year's activities of the Association and an outlook for its future plans by President Skip Christensen, the residents heard Steve Ponticos make a positive assessment of Sugarmill Woods future.

The CEO of Sweetwater Homes offered a major "if": "If" the Cypress and Oak Village Home Owners Associations will write identical deed restrictions and enforce them uniformly, "Sugarmill Woods can become the show place of the west coast."

"We are far ahead of every development between here and Tampa, but we must act together. We cannot act as though we are Florida and Florida State."

Sugarmill has 8700 home sites. Nearly 4500 are developed or under construction. It has taken 31 years to build out half the development. Ponticos predicts all of the lots will be built out in the next 7 to 10 years.

The danger in not rigidly enforcing uniform deed restrictions is that a major developer from out of town, out of state can come in, buy 1,000 lots and challenge the restrictions, possibly rendering them invalid.

"We cannot let that happen," Ponticos warned.

The commercial development underway at Routes 19 and 98 and the corner of Routes 98 and 480 is designed to enhance living in the area and will be an attraction to future residents.

Predicting the current real estate slump will bounce back in the next few months, the longtime Sugarmill residents predicts: "our future is phenomenal".



*Residents had many questions of Sweetwater CEO Steve Ponticos after his remarks at the annual meeting. Here they gather around a chart showing every home site in Sugarmill Woods, a development without equal on Florida's west coast, as described by Ponticos.*

**Message from the President**

In an article in this edition of the newsletter, and as I mentioned at our annual meeting, the Board of Directors has contracted with an acoustical engineer to do a noise impact study of the effect the Suncoast Parkway 2 will have on Sugarmill Woods. We will send the study to our elected officials: the Board of County Commissioners Senator Argenziano, Representative Dean, and the Florida Turnpike Enterprise.



The position of the Civic Association is that we take no official stance on the Parkway, e.g., build or no build. Our strong position is that it do no harm to Sugarmill Woods. Our preliminary analysis indicates that the Parkway, if built immediately adjacent to the Progress Energy transmission line, will generate a substantial and unacceptable increase in noise over the ambient conditions.

We will give the County Commissioners time to digest the study after which we plan on meeting with each one to emphasize our concerns and our position that the Parkway, if built, be constructed at least 800 meters (about 1/2 mile) east of the powerline.

The bottom line is quite clear. The Board of Directors can send the study to our elected officials and ask them to take action, but it is you, the voters, who have the ultimate influence on them.

**We expect we will need your help!** The political action committee will be developing a course of action that may call for you to contact these officials. There is no question - your communications may be the ticket we need to convince our elected officials to protect our community."

**Telephone Directory Supplement**

Included with this newsletter is a two page supplement to the Sugarmill Woods telephone directory. The directory is normally published in March, however, at the request of the publisher, the next edition is scheduled for October. As an interim service, this supplement is issued providing listings for new residents and for those residents who requested changes.

Those who are not listed can find an Enumeration Form in the front of the directory.

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**HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA 34446  
RESIDENT OF CYPRESS VILLAGE, OAK VILLAGE, SOUTHERN WOODS**

**Sugarmill Woods Civic Association  
108 Cypress Blvd. West  
Homosassa, FL 34446**

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