

SUGARMILL WOODS

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

June 2007
Newsletter



108 Cypress Boulevard West
Homosassa, Florida 34446

Fire Rescue Training Program Donated to the County

The Sugarmill Woods Civic Association Board approved the expenditure of \$1400 to provide a yearlong video training program for the Citrus County Fire Rescue service.

Created by a national firm, American Heat, a series of 12 videos (one a month) instructs rescue personnel on how to respond to various emergencies. One program deals with Hurricane preparation, another with bomb threats. A program is devoted to a nuclear plant attack, another deals with nursing home fires.

Each video is accompanied by an instructor disc which includes learning objectives, discussion questions, evaluation tests and reference materials.

All local fire rescue personnel will have this educational tool available throughout the year.



Citrus Fire Chief Richard Stover and Civic Association Vice President Bob Hettrich review one of the 12 training videos purchased for the local Fire Rescue service with several rescue personnel at the Homosassa Fire Station. The particular training video being watched deals with school bus fires. A new video is provided every month.

Renewed Interest in CERT in Sugarmill Woods - New Training Classes Scheduled

CERT, Community Emergency Response Team, was conceived to provide trained, equipped and organized residents available to assist their neighbors in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

When government emergency response agencies are overwhelmed and unavailable to respond for hours or days, CERT volunteers provide invaluable services to residents in distress.

A CERT response team in Sugarmill Woods was created a couple of years ago with the support of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. Oak Village resident Jim Smith was a founder and is the director of the program who reports a desire to expand the program in Sugarmill.

Volunteers are needed. No specific professional experience is required. Members can opt to serve as first responders in emergency situations or they can choose to serve in non-emergency roles.

A new training program will begin on June 21st. Sugarmill residents are encouraged to enroll. Enrollment forms are available at the Oak Village Association office in the Servos Plaza on Route 19 or online at: <http://oakvillage.org>.

To print the form, click on Committees, Emergency Response and SMWCERT Volunteer Questionnaire. The website contains additional information on the CERT program and offers direction to the Citrus County Sheriff's website for comprehensive details.



Study Shows Citrus School Population Growing

A study completed this year by a national educational consulting firm, MGT of America, Inc., reveals the population of Citrus County public schools has grown steadily from 1995 through 2006.

In that period, the number of students has increased by more than 1500 to just over 15,000. The study forecasts an additional increase of over 2000 during the next eight years to 17,000 pupils.

MGT predicts this increase will tax Citrus County schools beyond their capacity with the most critical overcrowding in the elementary and middle schools.

What this means to Sugarmill Woods is uncertain, but Board member Richard Eisner has been assigned to monitor the growth and the School Board's reaction to it.

Students in the southwest corner of the county are bused mainly to Lecanto schools, a long ride that concerns local parents, some of whom want a school built on a 20-acre site owned by the Board on County Road 480, Oak Park Boulevard.

The MGT study recommends an elementary school on that site at some future date.

School Superintendent Sandra "Sam" Himmell met with the Sugarmill Woods Civic Association Board last year to explain the criteria for approving construction of a new school.

A basic requirement is a student population of about 800. Current census figures reveal about 350 elementary students reside in the southwest corner of the county.

But, Eisner reports that Ms. Himmell and her staff are considering the possibility of a combined elementary-middle school, K through 8, for the area. This alternative would accommodate more students from a smaller geographical area and substantially reduce transportation costs.

Approval of school construction must be given by the state of Florida to qualify for state funds.

Mike Mullen, the executive Director of Support Services for the local system, tells Eisner that the state deems student travel time a serious factor in its consideration of new school construction.

The possibility of a school near Sugarmill Woods is undecided, but may be inevitable in the future.

Mr. Eisner and the Civic Association will continue to interact with the School Board and its staff on behalf of the Sugarmill Woods community.

Welcoming Committee in Cypress Village

A group of five residents, headed by Jo Anne Deckant, have formed an ad hoc committee to greet and welcome new residents to Cypress Village.

Active since February, the group has made personal calls on more than 50 new households.

Each visit provides the newcomer with a Welcome Packet that includes, among other things: a Newcomer's Guide published by the St. Petersburg *Times*, local gift certificates, a Chamber of Commerce business directory, a medical directory and a Sugarmill Woods telephone directory.

The committee receives a list each month of warranty deed transfers and that directs them to new residents.

Mrs. Deckant reports learning about the arrival of residents in new homes is not a problem. Finding out about newcomers in resale homes, is not as easy.

New residents of Cypress Village who have not heard from the Committee may contact Mrs. Deckant at 382-0158.



Take Stock in Children

Take Stock in Children presented a plaque to the Civic Association recently in recognition of it being an annual sponsor of the program's scholarship fund. Janet E. Clymer, Program Coordinator, made the presentation to Association Treasurer Pat Schuessler. Money contributed to the fund is matched by the State of Florida. Scholarships are awarded to qualified students who meet financial requirements.

Had An Outage? Let Us Know



The Association's Utilities Committee is developing a data base charting electrical outages in the development and discussing problems with both Progress Energy and the Withlacoochee Electric Cooperative.

Contact the power company first:

Progress Energy • 1-800- 228-8485

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative • 795-4382

Second, please notify the Committee by e-mail at:
utilities@sugarmillcivic.org

A Friendly Reminder

There is a Citrus County Ordinance which makes it illegal to construct or install any object in the easement or right-of-way area of residential property.

The right-of-way is the ten foot area of the lot that extends from the street inward toward the house. It is reserved for use by the utility companies for installation of cables, pipes and distribution boxes, for surface drainage, and other development.

Anything placed in this area (rocks, sawed-off posts) is illegal. Should someone accidentally hit them causing an injury, the homeowner may be held partially liable along with Citrus County for not ordering the impediments to be removed.

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

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Parkway ~ Skip Christensen, Duane Dueker, Bob Hettrich
Website ~ Ardath Prendergast

[www. sugarmillcivic.org](http://www.sugarmillcivic.org)

Sugarmill Elevation Maps Available

With the hurricane season upon us, residents may be interested to know where their homes are in relation to sea level.

The Civic Association has created maps showing the approximate elevation of every Sugarmill Woods neighborhood. The maps were published in this *Newsletter* in May, 2006.

Updated versions can be downloaded at the Association's web site: <http://www.sugarmillcivic.org>. Residents without computers may obtain copies at each of the Property Owner's Association offices.

Phone Book Updates

The 2007/08 Telephone Directory will be published in October. Production will take place this summer.

New residents are urged to submit the information requested on the Enumeration Form in the front of the directory. Residents who wish to make changes in their listing are urged to do it now.

Another request: if a friend or neighbor no longer lives in Sugarmill Woods, please forward that information either by completing the form or calling Norm Wagy at 382-4462.

Enumeration forms may be deposited in the Civic Association mail box at the main entrance to Cypress Village off Highway 19.



Who to Call?

For questions regarding security, greenbelt, deed restrictions or other matters relating to Sugarmill Woods residences, the following numbers will direct homeowners to the proper resource:

Cypress Village 382-1900

Oak Village 621-8053

The Cottages of Southern Woods 382-1830

Southern Woods Property Owners Association 382- 0495

Where Are We From?

A disclaimer: there is nothing scientific about these numbers! This is only an interesting observation.

The Civic Association maintains a data base of over 2700 residential homes in Sugarmill Woods.

Of those listings, 363 families moved here from New York state; 305 relocated from other places in Florida; 254 migrated from New Jersey; 240 came south from Michigan; and 171 chose Sugarmill over Illinois.

In all, our residents moved from 43 states and 23 countries, a fairly diverse population.

Message from the President

Over the past few months the Civic Association has been working hard to persuade the Florida Turnpike (FTE) to position the Suncoast Parkway2 (SCP2), if it is built, at least 800 meters east of the Progress Energy power line (commonly referred to as the "big power line") instead of immediately adjacent to it.



We commissioned a study of the expected acoustical impact (the noise generated by traffic) SCP2 will have on our community should the path be immediately adjacent to the power line. According to the consultant's report SCP2 will have a significant impact on the ambient sound (in other words it will be loud) and that the best noise abatement is distance, not trees or berms or walls.

After reading and digesting the report we wrote to our Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and asked them to support our efforts. We even met with them one on one. With the exception of Commissioner Valentino, who appears to oppose SCP2, the other commissioners agreed that moving the path of SCP2 made sense, but they stopped short of committing to withdraw their support for the road if FTE ignored our plea. Commissioner Bartell did write FTE a letter outlining the logic for repositioning the road. As yet FTE has not responded to him.

At Commissioner Bartell's suggestion we met with FTE officials to present our case. Our request was denied even though FTE has not yet completed its design study, nor sought approval from the BOCC to build SCP2 through Citrus County. FTE did say it will write us a letter addressing what it will do (put up a visual barrier), but we've yet to receive it by the time this newsletter went to press.

So what's next.? We have some ideas, e.g., legal action, but to do that we need to have a solid legal basis. We solicit your ideas and want to know how you feel about SCP2. My email address is: president@sugarmillcivic.org

Civic Association President Has a New Telephone

The Civic Association has purchased a cellular telephone to accommodate calls to the organization's President.

The number is: 228-1567. It should be used to communicate with the current President, Skip Christensen and will be passed on to all future Presidents.

The object is for the Association to have a "business" number that will always be available to members and residents. Please feel free to use it for any questions or other communications.

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

**Sugarmill Woods Civic Association
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Homosassa, FL 34446**

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