

SUGARMILL WOODS



CIVIC ASSOCIATION

September 2007
Newsletter

108 Cypress Boulevard West
Homosassa, Florida 34446

Community Outreach Committee Presents

A new Community Outreach Committee is planning a series of meetings to keep Sugarmill residents informed of key programs and issues that may affect them. (See President's Message on back page)

Plan to attend the next meeting:

Monday, October 15, 2007

2:00 PM

Southern Woods Golf Club

Citrus County Fire Chief Richard E. Stover, EFO

Chief Stover will describe his department, its facilities and its future plans for Citrus County. He will discuss Level 2 response times which may yield lower insurance rates for county residents.

After his presentation, he will take questions from residents.

This will be an interesting and informative meeting.

Mark your calendar!

Flu Shots Available at Sugarmill Woods Country Club

This year, a private firm, Maxim Health Systems, will conduct flu shot clinics at the Sugarmill Woods Country Club on Monday, October 22 (9:00 AM to 1:00 PM) and on Tuesday, November 6 (1:00 PM to 5:00 PM). Maxim will accept payment from Medicare Part B and most other insurance plans.

The Center for Disease Control reports that over 30,000 senior citizens die each year as a result of the flu.

Flu vaccine can reduce the risk of death by up to 50 percent.

To be adequately staffed and prepared, the company requests that **reservations be made**. To make a reservation or for more information, call Maxim Health at (352) 683-2885.

Directors Needed

Three vacancies will occur on the Civic Association Board of Directors in January. Replacements are being recruited now. A nominating committee will be interviewing candidates in the coming months. Any resident is eligible.

The Board is made up of people who come to Sugarmill Woods with a wealth of experience, people who are willing to share their expertise to keep this community as healthy and desirable as it was when they were attracted to it. Residents with technical, financial and legal backgrounds are vital to keeping the Board relevant and effective. Citizens who believe they have no particular expertise, but are willing to serve their neighbors are also welcome.

Board members are elected to three year terms. The Board, in turn, elects its officers.

Anyone interested in serving or simply curious about what the Board does may visit our web site at www.sugarmillcivic.org or contact President Duane Dueker at 352-228-1567 or via e-mail at DuaneDueker@aol.com. Please make any inquiries by November 1, 2007.

Utilities Committee Works with County

The Sugarmill Woods Civic Association continues to work with the Citrus County Water Resources Department, Utilities Division to track the progress of major projects and to address any issues and concerns which may arise. The Utilities Committee is specifically focused on addressing the needs and protecting the interests of Sugarmill Woods residents.

As part of this focus, it monitors the status of the storage tank and new well along US 98, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWIFTMUD) Consent Order status, Lift Station upgrades, generators for lift stations, and water pressure concerns. It makes periodic reports to the residents.

For several years, the Association has lobbied the water company for new wells and a 500,000 gallon pressure/storage tank to meet growing demand. Work on a new well and the construction of the storage tank began last year. The transfer of the water company to the county created a slight delay, but work is now progressing at the site on US 98 near Lone Pine Street. Both are planned to be in operation by February 2008.

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWIFTMUD) issued a water use permit on June 25, 2002 for Sugarmill Woods, authorizing water withdrawals of 2,010,000 gallons per day (gpd) on an annual average basis and 3,025,000 gpd on a peak month basis from 11 wells for public supply use. In July, 2005, the permit authorized limits were exceeded by about 5.5%. Since then, the percentage of over-pumpage has continued to climb each month. As of June, 2007, the permit limits were exceeded by 46.7%.

SWIFTMUD issued a proposed Consent Order on August 9, 2007 to Citrus County which concluded that over-pumpage in Sugarmill Woods, Pine Ridge, and Citrus Springs were exceeding the permit limits. It asked the county to respond by August 23 with a plan of action to reduce usage.

Citrus County Water Resources Department responded with a plan which includes a water conservation rate analysis for the Sugarmill Woods service area and the establishment of an inverted rate structure to encourage conservation. (Inverted rates, simplified: the more you use, the more you pay.)

Public hearings and presentations to the Board of County Commissioners are predicted for next spring seeking approval of an inverted water rate schedule for Sugarmill Woods.

The Sugarmill Woods permit will expire June 25, 2008. Robert Knight, Director of the CC Water Resources Department, agrees that population growth during the last three years has been far above forecast and therefore the existing permits do not adequately reflect the actual population served.

The Association will work with the county to ensure the permit application includes the latest statistics for resident

population at time of renewal and a conservative growth rate for the next 5 years.

Sugarmill Woods Lift Stations are being reviewed now by the Citrus County Utilities Division to see which ones require some constructional improvements, relined, etc. and which ones need to be rebuilt and/or moved.

There are separate funds for covering the two categories. The Lift Station Replacement Program is covered by Reserves funding and the Lift Station Improvement program is funded through waste water collection fees.

Utility Committee members plan to meet with the Utilities Division engineers later this year to better understand the two programs and also to learn which Lift Stations will have corrective actions taken over the next 12 to 24 months.

The county has been working to ensure Lift Station generators are available in case of emergencies. Stationary generators are in place for the major lift stations and there are portable generators that can be rotated around for the rest of the Lift Stations. This is another issue the committee will monitor.

With regard to the water pressure, there can be a problem with the pressure being too low or the pressure being too high. It can work both ways. Recently, some residents experienced high water pressure at their homes. The Water Resources Department says those problems have been fixed. Some of the main pressure sensing and controlling valves were replaced to alleviate that condition.

Residents should consider installing a water pressure reducing valve on the main water supply inlet to the home, if one does not exist. All homes built in the last 10 to 12 years were required to have them installed at time of construction. Owners of older homes without a reducing valve are advised to contact a plumber to have one installed and adjusted properly.



A water pressure gauge is a handy device to own. Connected to the outdoor house bib or a laundry room faucet, etc., it can be used to make periodic checks of the pressure. A gauge may be purchased from a local home improvement or hardware store for about \$10.00.

In the event of problems, residents should contact the utility company first, then notify the committee at utilities@sugarmillcivic.org so follow-up steps can be taken to assure corrective action was taken.

SMWCA Utilities Committee Working with Progress Energy to assure continuing improvements in SMW

Members of the SMWCA Utilities Committee have met with engineering representatives of Progress Energy (PE) several times onsite in SMW in recent weeks. They have reviewed past, present and future electrical power infrastructure status, repairs and improvements.

The committee has reviewed details of the infrastructure, with an ongoing history of outages, repairs and replacements. Due to the age of the infrastructure in some areas of SMW (30+ yrs) power supply cables, transformers and switch units are failing and causing intermittent to lengthy outages and related problems. As the events occur, Progress Energy has been responding, repairing and replacing damaged cables as effectively as possible to reduce outage time and assure future uninterrupted service for SMW residents.

To date, over 28,000 ft. of supply cable has been replaced (since 2005) and over 100 transformers and switch units have been replaced in areas that have suffered outages and related problems. In addition, PE has begun an Underground Utilities Patrol to visually inspect all cable connections, switch units, transformers, etc. in an effort to detect weak points in the system. A two man team is inspecting all of Sugarmill Woods with completion expected in mid-October. Results will then be reviewed with the SMWCA utilities committee.

In the near future, details of areas where cables, transformers and switch units have been replaced, as well as planned replacements, will be available to the community. The SMWCA is continuing to drive improvements to include preventive measures by PE to preclude outages due to aging infrastructure and other problems. More work is to be done and the SMWCA Utilities Committee will be monitoring it closely.

In the event of an outage, residents should contact their utility company first, then send an e-mail to the committee at utilities@sugarmillcivic.org so the outage is recorded and can be followed up to determine the corrective action taken.

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

Board of Directors Officers

President ~ Duane Dueker
Vice President ~ Bob Hettrich
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Association Charities

Several years ago, the Board of Directors of the Civic Association decided that it should share its time, talent and other resources with worthwhile organizations which provide services for Sugarmill residents and the county population, in general. Organizations that receive financial support have included the Boys & Girls Club, Westside Unit, Take Stock in Children, Friends of the Homosassa Library and, last year, the Citrus County Fire and Rescue Service.

The contribution to the Fire and Rescue Service was spent to provide a 12-month educational program, via DVD instruction, on how to respond to various emergency situations. A different emergency is the focus of each month's program. Because of the popularity of this program with local fire and rescue management and personnel and its effectiveness as a teaching tool, the Board has voted to renew the program for 2008.

This year's recipients also included: Take Stock in Children, Friends of the Homosassa Library, and the Boys & Girls Club.

Boys & Girls Club Westside Unit

This donation was presented during the Summer Camp at the Homosassa site.



Standing in the middle of the playground at the Westside Unit in Homosassa are Heidi Bressler, Unit Director, Justin Jackson, Program Assistant and Sugarmill Woods Civic Association Treasurer Pat Schuessler who presented the unit with the gift. Flying through the air on the swing is Jayda Hawkins while the young man with the "what's going on here" expression is Devin Seney. The summer camp at all four Boys & Girls Club location ran at capacity for all of its six weeks.

Message from the President

We formed a new committee this summer and established a program to focus on scheduling periodic resident meetings with guest speakers to address subjects of importance to you. It is called the Community Outreach Program. The objectives are to enhance the image of Sugarmill Woods within Citrus County and to educate and inform the residents of Sugarmill Woods about the major issues and concerns affecting our community overall.



The first in the planned series of meetings was held on September 17 where we addressed the Sugarmill Woods Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and ways that we can help ourselves in the event of a major disaster. The second meeting is scheduled for October 15 when we will have a presentation from Fire Chief Richard Stover addressing plans and ideas for improving support for our community. In November, we are scheduling a presentation on heart health with speakers from Citrus Memorial Hospital. Early in January, Melanie J. Hensley, Citrus County Property Appraiser has agreed to speak and address the new Super Homestead Exemption Property Tax Reform proposal which all residents of Florida will be asked to vote on January 29, 2008.

Our Utilities Committee has been working on issues and concerns with both Progress Energy and Citrus County Water Resources Department. We are making progress and we are planning to have representatives from both organizations speak to our residents at future community meetings planned for early 2008.

With regards to the Suncoast Parkway, we stated in our June Newsletter that the Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) agreed to write us a letter addressing what it will do (put up a visual barrier). The letter was not satisfactory and we decided to meet again with Mr. Christopher Warren, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, FTE, on July 10, to get clarification on some issues. Mr. Warren admitted in an e-mail to us that "There is no Florida statute, rule, or FDOT policy that explicitly defines the proposed shift in the Suncoast alignment as a major change and requires the initiation of a new PD&E Study." We will continue to press the case that the Suncoast Parkway 2 (SCP2), if built, be constructed at least 800 meters east of the Progress Energy power lines.

We solicit your ideas and want to know how you feel about SCP2. We also want to hear about any other issues and concerns that you might have so we can address them in real time. My e-mail address is: president@sugarmillcivic.org

Directory Delivery

The 2007/08 Telephone Directory is in the final stages of publication. It will contain the names, addresses, phone numbers and other information of nearly 2800 Sugarmill household members.

The directory is created by the Civic Association and published by the *Citrus County Chronicle*. It is available to every household in Sugarmill Woods with delivery scheduled for the first week in November.

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