

SUGARMILL WOODS

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

December 2007
Newsletter



108 Cypress Boulevard West
Homosassa, Florida 34446

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2008 -- 7:30 PM
Elks Lodge
7890 W. Grover Cleveland Blvd.



Agenda

Call to Order
State of the Association
Introduction of the Board Candidates
Guest Speaker

Adjournment

Duane Dueker, President
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Duane Dueker, President
Nancy Argenziano, Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission

Hensley to Address Community Outreach Meeting

County Property Appraiser Melanie Hensley will speak to Sugarmill Woods residents on Tuesday, January 8 to explain the State Real Estate tax proposal that will be on the ballot at the January 29th primary election.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM at the Sugarmill Woods Country Club. All residents are welcome to attend.

Message from SWIFTMUD

We are in the midst of a two year drought! Our rainfall deficit is more than 20 inches. Forecasters predict a dry winter and spring. New low water levels are expected. Everyone must help! Please conserve!



Membership Drive In Progress

The Civic Association's annual membership campaign is underway. Letters were mailed to every household in Sugarmill Woods earlier this month inviting residents to join for the annual fee of \$15.00.

The Association is in its 28th year of working for all of the residents of this community. Its history of accomplishments includes diligent oversight of utility rate and service issues; the publication of a telephone directory and periodic newsletters; representation before the Board of County Commissioners, the Citrus County School Board and other local agencies; the sponsorship of an annual meeting and monthly community Outreach meetings.

The Association functions through the financial support of its members and the selfless volunteer efforts of its Board of Directors.

To support its work, residents are asked to complete the member card, include a check for \$15.00 and mail it or drop it in the Association's drop box at the main Cypress Village entrance.

Anyone wishing to volunteer services may contact President Duane Dueker at 228-1567.

Changes in Water Rates On the Way

Water bills for customers of Citrus County Water Resources will change starting with the December statements. Households using less than 10,000 gallons per month will see a slight reduction. Those using more than 10,000 will see significant increases.

Water Resources Director Robert Knight told a gathering of Sugarmill Woods residents: "You are not being singled out. Fifty percent of you use less than 10,000. Those who use 20,000 gallons or more will see their water rates double." He spoke at the November Community Outreach meeting at Sugarmill Woods Country Club sponsored by the SMW Civic Association.

The problem is: Sugarmill Woods residents have been consuming 3 million gallons of water a day. The community's permit with SWIFTMUD sets the limit at 2 million gallons per day.

"We are pumping water 50 percent over our permit. This cannot continue," Knight warned. The permit will expire in June, 2008. Unless water consumption declines, expect SWIFTMUD to come down hard on excessive use.

By the end of next year, the department will have spent \$4 million in capital improvements on the Sugarmill system. "If we could reduce our consumption to 2 million gallons a day, we could serve an additional 2000 residents in Sugarmill with no additional capital expense."

"We need your help!," Knight pleaded.

Conservation is not just desirable, it's a necessity. According to Knight and his Conservation Coordinator, Bernadine Flood-Nichols, lawns are the number one consumer of water in the average Sugarmill Woods home. It is estimated that 75 to 80 percent of water consumption is used in irrigating lawns. Reducing the amount of grass and replacing it with "Florida Friendly" plantings is an excellent alternative. Watering only when the grass needs

it should be the rule and, during this time of the year, watering every other week should be sufficient. This policy would not only save water but money for the homeowner.

To help and encourage residents to conserve, a conservation workshop to be held in Sugarmill Woods in mid-February. "Our goal is to work with you" to discover practical ways to save water, Ms. Flood-Nichols pledged.

Enforcement of irrigation schedules is on the horizon. Crime Watch drivers have begun placing orange warning tags on the front doors of residents who are watering illegally. The bottom half of the warning is forwarded to the county. After the first of the year, Knight plans to have two full-time inspectors on the job. They will be given the names and addresses of high-end users and contact them with warnings. Stiff fines will be the penalty for continuing violations.

On several other subjects of interest: every lift sewerage station in Sugarmill Woods has been outfitted to accept portable power generators in the event of a power outage. Odor from lift stations is not acceptable. Call the county and repairs will be made promptly.

The Sugarmill Woods water system is inspected regularly to insure no excess effluents are invading the supply. Knight said: "This is very important to me. I insist on 100 percent compliance, 100 percent of the time."

A 500,000 gallon storage tank will be online within two months and will provide a reservoir of water to maintain water pressure and be available to combat fires.

Providing water service to Chassahowitzka customers will help Sugarmill Woods lower its per capita water use because all the new customers have wells and are expected to use only 90 gallons or less per day.

An agreement is being finalized with Southern Woods Golf Club to use recycled water for irrigation of the course within two years.

Homosassa Library Branch is Open

To the delight of Homosassa (and Sugarmill) residents, the Citrus County Library has opened its new Homosassa branch just off Grover Cleveland Blvd., on S. Grandmarch Avenue.



It has been hailed an unqualified success and a source of pride to the community, the library system and to all of Citrus County.

The Civic Association, an annual supporter of Friends of the Homosassa Library, made a substantial contribution to the new facility. Upon the recommendation

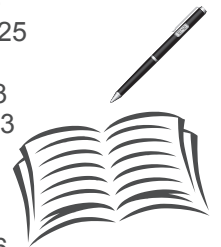
of library administrators, the Association purchased three pieces of sculpture that adorn the library's reading garden and will be a source of pleasure for library patrons for decades to come.

In addition, the Association purchased an Aladdin Apex enlarging machine that will make it possible for sight-impaired patrons to enjoy library materials.

The Association was singled out for special commendation of appreciation by library executives at the dedication ceremonies on December 7th.

Directory Errata

35 Beech St. Unit #
Archibald, Ted B. #25
Beck, Yvonne #14
Connell, Robert #13
Findel, Maureen #13
Harned, John #26
Hill, Betty M. #11
Parsons, Bill #22
Spencer, Judith #16
Tait, Daniel C. #12
Williams, Joan S. #17



Dennis Berberich -- 382-2788
Dana & Barbara Comeau -- 382-0619
Norm and Joyce Drye -- 503-3844
Charles R. Roberts -- 33 Freesia Ct.
Zell & Joanne Boggus -- 23 Freesia Ct.
Josephine Tucci -- 503-3919

Three Candidates for Association Board

Charlie Hoke

Charlie and Carol Hoke have a long history in Sugarmill Woods. They first came here in 1981; built a villa in 1985; and built a home in Southern Woods in 1999. They have been full-time residents since then.

Charlie, a CPA, has degrees from Walsh College and Wayne State University. He was a partner in a major CPA firm for 16 years; CFO of a major Detroit law firm; and a financial consultant. For 5 years, he was CEO of companies in the food service industry.

He is past president of the Michigan Association of CPAs, the Michigan Bankers Association and the Michigan Aviation Association. He was the President of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills Chamber of Commerce and has been active in community organizations in both Michigan and Florida.

He is an Army veteran. He and Carol have three children and nine grandchildren.

Tom Paslay

Tom Paslay has had a broad background in corporate management, civic and political affairs.

With a premed degree from Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO, he held top-management and sales positions with several national/international corporations during a 37 year career in high technology services. He was the Asia Pacific General Manager in Tokyo for IBM and responsible for management training of top executives in the company's Australian and New Zealand operations.

He has had extensive experience working with both the California Legislature and the US House of Representatives.

He was elected President of two homeowners associations. He is a director of the Southern Woods Homeowners Association and a board member of Citrus 20/20.

Since moving to Citrus County with wife, Mary, in 2003, Tom has become a strong voice in local issues working with state and county organizations.

Jim Roys

Residents of Oak Village South for the past four years, Jim Roys and wife, Nan, have been active members of the community.

A Vietnam veteran who was awarded both the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, Jim entered a career in law enforcement after his discharge from the Army. He served 32 years with the Suffolk County (NY) Police Department; his last 8 years as a homicide detective. Prior to that, he was a general detective being promoted from a police officer who handled regular patrol duties and crime-scene investigations.

He holds a degree in Behavioral Science/Criminal Justice from the New York Institute of Technology and a degree in Police Science from Suffolk Community College.

His career presented him with a unique experience to serve as liaison between the civic association board and the local Sheriff's Office and Community Watch programs. He is willing to take on that and any other assignment the Board deems useful to the community.

Jim is the President of the Southern Woods Men's Golf Association and the club's advisory committee. Nan O'Connor-Roys is President of the Southern Woods Ladies Golf Association.

Citrus Fire Chief Expects Department Improvements

Citrus County Fire and Rescue Chief Rick Stover had positive news about his department as he addressed a Civic Association Community Outreach meeting in October.

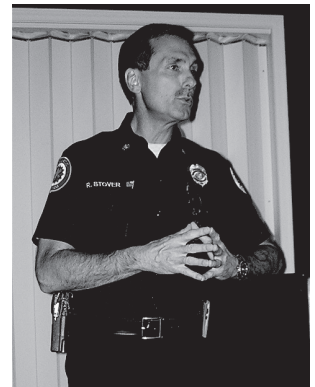
A fourth manned fire station is about to open in Connell Heights to join those in Homosassa, Inverness and Crystal River. These stations have three professional firefighters in house 24 hours a day. The 36 professional firefighters are augmented by 98 volunteers. Five of those volunteers are assigned to the Chassahowitzka/Sugarmill area.

All of the professional and volunteer firefighters are trained at the local facility in Lecanto to meet State of Florida requirements.

Stover expects his department to receive an upgrade in its national insurance ranking soon and that could prompt a reduction in the fire premiums in some homeowners policies. However he added: "I cannot guarantee that."

Fire engines, which carry a complete set of emergency medical equipment and devices, are being outfitted for laptop computers to make it possible to access GPS sites to locate addresses in the county. This is important in Sugarmill Woods with its confusing grid of 109 miles of streets.

Stover emphasized that the lack of clearly visible house numbers is a critical issue when a crew is attempting to respond to an emergency, especially in the middle of the night. "This is such an easy, inexpensive thing to remedy and it would pay off by reducing precious minutes for help to arrive."



Another hindrance: fire hydrants hidden by excessive trees and shrubbery. Hidden fire hydrants are a violation of a county ordinance, but more important, they can delay quick response to a residential fire.

About the Sugarmill Greenbelt: some residents worry that it is a fire hazard. Chief Stover does not share that concern. The miles of roads provide a fire break; the 600 fire hydrants in the community and alert residents quickly reporting a fire also reduce the possibility of a major disaster in the Greenbelt. Stover recommends citizens go to the web site: www.firewise.org for instructions on being prepared for a brush fire near their homes.

Message from the President

It is that time of year to reflect on the events and memories of this past year and be thankful for all of the good things that we have experienced with family and friends. I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving and I wish all of you a very Happy Holiday Season. Please take the time to enjoy the holiday season with those close to you.



We have had three Community Outreach Program meetings since September 2007 when we started the program. The resident attendance has increased at each successive meeting with over 80 people attending the session with Robert Knight, Director of Citrus County Water Resources. Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 8 with Citrus County Property Appraiser Melanie Hensley who will discuss the new proposed homestead exemption resolution that will be on the January 29 ballot. Melanie will address related topics such as portability, the double homestead exemption, the tangible personal property tax exemption, and the assessment cap for non-homestead property.

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter we are experiencing a severe shortfall in rain and forecasters are predicting this shortage to continue through the winter and into spring. Everyone must help in conserving water. Several residents commented they were not aware of the watering restrictions so I will restate them here again. Irrigation is restricted to once a week watering either before 8 AM or after 6 PM. Your designated day to water is assigned based on your address (house number). If your address ends in 0 or 1, water only on Monday; 2 or 3 on Tuesday; 4 or 5 on Wednesday; 6 or 7 on Thursday; 8 or 9 or those locations without a discernible address on Friday. Irrigation is not permitted on Saturdays or Sundays. I know the majority of residents are doing their part and I appreciate your cooperation and support in this matter.

We want to hear about any issues and concerns that you might have so we can address them in real time. My e-mail address is: president@sugarmillcivic.org. Again, best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to all.

Telephone Directory Supplement

Included in this newsletter is a supplement to the 2007-08 telephone directory: a Cypress Village street index. The index was inadvertently omitted by the publisher.

Some residents report they have not received a directory. Those who have not (one to a household, please), may contact Norm Wagy at 382-4462. ~Our apologies for the inconvenience~

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www.sugarmillcivic.org



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

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

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HOMOSASSA, SPNGS, FL 34447