

SUGARMILL WOODS

September 2008
Newsletter



CIVIC ASSOCIATION

108 Cypress Boulevard West
Homosassa, Florida 34446

Hurricane Preparedness

Captain Eckstein Warns: Be Ready!

With hurricane season in full force, Citrus County Emergency Operations Director Joe Eckstein is urging residents of the county to know what they plan to do if a major storm is heading this way.

He told a group of Sugarmill residents to "have a plan" as he appeared at a Civic Association Community Outreach program in July.

Be prepared with water, food and medical supplies and know where you plan to go and how to get there if an evacuation is ordered. Should an evacuation be necessary, Eckstein reminded that tens of thousands of people will be crowding the highways in the county, many coming from south of here. There is bound to be a bottle-neck somewhere.

He stressed: a county shelter should be considered as the absolute last resort because it will likely be a hectic, chaotic and unpleasant experience. He added: "If a major storm strikes the area, you do not want to be here". Power could be off for days or maybe weeks. Normal conditions may take weeks to restore.

He promised that Sugarmill Woods residents need not worry that their development will be abandoned. "Deputies will be patrolling the streets, The helicopter will provide surveillance. Suspicious people will be denied entry".



Eckstein recommends that all residents register their land and cell phones with CodeRED and CodeRED Weather warning services. These are reverse 911 systems that will automatically inform subscribers of approaching dangerous conditions. Registration can be done by going to www.sheriffcitrus.org. Residents without internet access can call his office at 746-6555.

For periodic updates, he explained: "With the flip of a switch in my office, I can take instant control of radio station Spirit FM at 88.3 to broadcast conditions and recommendations".

The Civic Association has posted the Shelter Sites and Distribution Center sites on a Bulletin Board at the Cypress Village main entrance. You can also access the list of these sites on line at www.sheriffcitrus.org/EM/ShelterSites.html

2009 Sugarmill Telephone Directories Being Prepared

All of the information included in the 2009 Sugarmill Woods Directory of Residents has been sent to the Citrus Publishing Company. Production of the book is underway now. Delivery to every residence is scheduled for the middle of November.

This will mark 30 consecutive years that the Civic Association has provided this service to the citizens of Sugarmill Woods.



SWIFTMUD Executive Defends Water Regulations

The one day a week lawn watering restriction was strongly defended by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Executive Director Dave Moore as he addressed a crowd of Sugarmill Woods residents at a Civic Association Community Outreach meeting in August.

Granting that the aquifer in Citrus County is in "pretty good shape", Moore said the objective is to "stretch the supply we have as far into the future as we can". His agency regulates water consumption in 16 counties over a 10,000 square mile area.

"We're looking to the future to avoid water problems similar to those that exist south of here," Moore explained. And describing "south of here", he reported that the springs at Weeki Wachee have been seriously depleted with no sign of significant replenishment in the foreseeable future.

Responding to critics of the 150 gallon per person, per day average limitation the agency uses as its guide, Moore said that is the maximum range of usage in the 16-county area. "Most of the people in the Tampa Bay area are below 100 gallons a day".

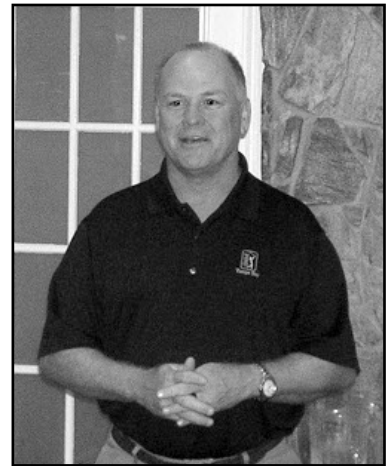
Lawn irrigation is the major cause of water consumption and, Moore claimed, can be reduced without serious damage to St. Augustine grass. He suggests if residents would limit lawn watering to six months a year, the limits could be reached easily.

"Why is anyone watering their yards in July, August and September? We get 30 inches of rain during those months". And he added, lawns do not need water in the dead of winter: December, January and February when they are basically dormant. He contends that restricting lawn irrigation to the other six months of the year should make it easy to stay within the limit.

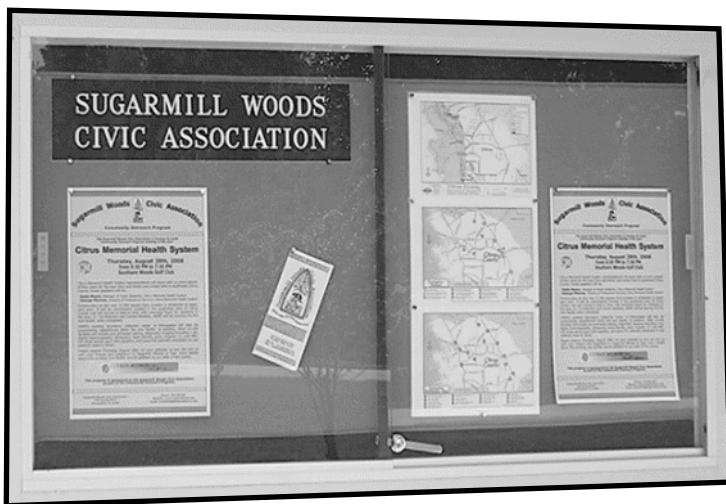
Some members of the audience were sharply critical of the one day watering restriction and one referred to the recent crackdown on abusers as "the gestapo running around checking on people". Moore assured the audience that he would prefer no enforcement penalties, but he said: "that's the only thing that works. We've tried everything else". He added the one day restriction would be in force through the month of September.

Moore praised people in Pinellas County who he reports, through conservation, are using less water than they did in the 70s. "They've turned back the clock 30 years".

"We're not asking you to do that. We're trying to work with you", he told an audience that included a substantial number of skeptics.



Look for Announcements Here



The Civic Association has updated one of the Bulletin Board sections at the Cypress Village main entrance wall to be used for posting important information for all Sugarmill Woods residents such as Community Outreach Program meeting notices, emergency evacuation map routes, shelter sites, and distribution center sites, , and other relevant information. We wish to thank the Cypress Village Property Owners Association for making this space available. Keep an eye on this news source and stay up to date with your community.

Citrus County Watering Restrictions

Designated Day for House numbers ending in:

- 0 or 1 --- Monday
- 2 or 3 --- Tuesday
- 4 or 5 --- Wednesday
- 6 or 7 --- Thursday
- 8 or 9 --- Friday

Water ONLY ONCE on designated day either before 8 AM or after 6 PM.

- * Hand watering or micro-irrigation on non-lawn landscape is permitted.
- * Restrictions apply to all of us, whether we receive our water from public utilities or private wells.



Groundbreaking scheduled for new Medical Center near Sugarmill Woods



If all the permits are granted and other requirements are met, as expected, groundbreaking will take place in late September for the 21,400 square foot medical center just north of Sugarmill Woods on Highway 19. Construction is expected to begin before the end of this year.

Citrus Memorial Hospital's George Mavros, the Director of Professional Services and a Sugarmill resident for 28 years, promises it will provide a major improvement in health care for the residents of southwest Citrus County. He spoke to Sugarmill residents at a Civic Association Community Outreach Program meeting last month.

Completion of the center is targeted for late 3Q 2009.

Situated on a 5-acre piece of property that presently houses the hospital's Primary Care Office, it will offer a walk-in clinic, laboratories, a diagnostic imaging center, physical, occupational and aquatic rehabilitation facilities, a blood donor section and expanded office and examining rooms for Dr. Timothy Peterson, M.D. and Carolyn Bautista, A.R.N.P. Mobile MRI and cat-scan units will visit the site on a regular basis.

The blood collection center located in the strip mall south of Sugarmill Woods will be moved into the new facility. The present building will be remodeled and leased to medical specialists. This facility and the Primary Care office combined currently see about 100 patients a day. With the new facility, hospital officials expect to nearly double the number of patient visits.

Mavros said: "We should be able to offer pre-admission testing to cover 95 percent of all surgical procedures". He added: "this area has grown enough that we believe it can support this new facility".

The center will operate Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM, but the walk-in clinic will offer extended evening and weekend hours as the traffic warrants.

The Primary Care Office averages over 30 patients a day. The new facility will be able to accommodate 50 to 60 patients. If the need arises, consideration will be given to adding a second physician to share the work load.

This project is a part of a \$10 million expansion program planned by Citrus Memorial Hospital Foundation. One half of the money will be spent on this facility. The remaining half will be used to remodel and expand the hospital's emergency room in Inverness.

Board of Directors Candidates Needed

Several vacancies will occur on the Civic Association Board of Directors in January.

Replacements are being recruited now. A nominating committee will interview candidates in the coming months.

The Board is made up of individuals who are residents of Sugarmill Woods and members of the Civic Association. They are people who are willing to share their experience, time and talents to help this community grow and stay vital, healthy and desirable in the coming years.

Residents with technical, financial, legal, civil engineering, publications and computer talents are especially needed to keep the Board relevant and effective in its work. Citizens who believe they have no particular expertise, but are willing to serve their neighbors are also welcome to be a candidate.

Board members are elected to three year terms and the Board, in turn, elects its officers in January.

Monthly Board of Director meetings are set for the second Monday of each month, starting at 3pm and generally end between 4:30 and 5.

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 352-246-5597 or via e-mail at president@sugarmillcivic.org.

If you are interested, please make inquiries by November 1, 2008.



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

Board of Directors

President ~ Duane Dueker
Vice President ~ Madelyn McCorkle
Secretary ~ Jim Roys
Treasurer ~ Charlie Hoke

Board Members

Warren Blodgett ~ Richard Eisner ~ Ross Knudsen
Tom Paslay ~ Ardath Prendergast
Ed Schiller ~ Nancy Weber

Consultants

Skip Christensen ~ Norm Wagay ~ Pat Schuessler

www.sugarmillcivic.org

Message from the President

We continue to have excellent turnout for our Community Outreach Program meetings since we started them in September, 2007. We have held 12 meetings since then with attendance averaging between 80 to 100 residents at each one. Our objectives for this program 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. We really appreciate your attendance and support of the program and we will continue to look for your input on speakers of interest.



As a community, we have continued to reduce our water usage over the past year and more significantly since the beginning of this year. Our Rolling 12 Month Annual Daily Average permit limit is 2.01 million gallons of water per day. In April, 2007 our over pumpage was 49%. In January, 2008 our over pumpage reduced to 39% and the latest numbers for August, 2008 show our over pumpage to be only 4.8%. This is excellent progress and I wish to thank all of you for helping achieve these results.

For those residents whose monthly water bills show usage of 50,000 gallons or more per month (approximately 110 billing addresses), I encourage you to talk to a friend or neighbor who has an irrigation well and compare your water bills. You will probably see a significant potential savings in your monthly water bill with an irrigation well. Of course you will have to decide what an acceptable payback time frame is given your individual situation. The bottom line is we need to achieve the permit limit by year end or else we will be subject to a significant fine. Your continued support is encouraged and needed.

Our Utilities Committee has continued to meet with both Citrus County Water Resources and Progress Energy. On August 29, we held our second quarterly meeting with Citrus County Water Resources to discuss related activities and improvements planned for the coming year. Some of the activities being worked on now include the renewal of the Sugarmill Woods Water Permit, an additional 500,000 gallon water Storage Tank at Water Treatment Plant # 2 which should be completed in mid 2009, and a study on future improvements needed to support projected growth in the area. Water rate structures are also being reviewed again to see if any adjustments are needed. Also, another meeting is scheduled with Progress Energy in September to review status of the Transmission Lines Project.

It is that time of year again to seek out candidates who are willing to serve on the Civic Association Board of Directors for the 2009 calendar year. Please see the article in this newsletter and give it your careful consideration.

We want to hear from you on any issues and concerns that you might have so we can address them in real time. My e-mail address is: president@sugarmillcivic.org. Thank you for your continued support.

Duane Duiker



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Residents 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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