

SUGARMILL WOODS

December 2008
Newsletter



CIVIC ASSOCIATION

108 Cypress Boulevard West
Homosassa, Florida 34446

Annual Meeting

Monday, January 12, 2009 ~ 7:00 PM

Elks Lodge

**7890 W. Grover Cleveland Blvd.
Homosassa, FL**



Agenda

Call to Order ~ Duane Dueker, President
State of the Association & Introduction of Candidates for the Board of Directors
Guest Speaker ~ **Citrus County Commissioner Joe Meek, District 3**
Adjournment

New Commissioner to Address Annual Meeting

Joe C. Meek III was elected to the Board of Citrus County Commissioners this November, his first elected office. He is dedicated to grow the local economy, protect its environment and develop a long-term plan for Citrus County.

Two Candidates for Civic Association Board

Deborah "Debbie" Faunce moved to Citrus County in 2000 and quickly became active in civic and political activities. She formerly served on the Board of the Civic Association, served as a poll worker and in several other capacities for the Supervisor of Elections and is a past-President of the neighborhood Republican club. She has served as a volunteer in several campaigns for the current PSC member Nancy Argenziano. She is a Master Gardener and a member of the Native Plant society.

A native of Washington, DC, she served for 25 years as a Health Systems Specialist in the Air National Guard and retired in 1999 as a Chief Master Sergeant. She and her husband, Robert Simpson, owned several businesses related to real estate in Maryland.

Michael Howard spent 22 years as a sales and marketing executive with the Digital Equipment Corporation. After the company was merged into Compaq and, later, Hewlett-Packard, Howard became Division President of Imation, a 3M subsidiary in Minneapolis. He concluded his career as North American President of a telecom startup company in Boston.

He has an engineering degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology and served on the Board of a timeshare development company for three years

With wife, Beverly, he moved to Sugarmill Woods in 2001 and is currently a member of the SMW Men's Golf Association Board. The couple has two sons and four grandchildren.

Francesca Paar is the President of the Women of Sugarmill Woods. She, her husband, Bill, and their two cats moved to Sugarmill Woods in 2005.

Born on the south shore of Long Island, she joined the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary after high school, was sent to the Mother House in the south of France. She lived abroad for 17 years serving as a teacher in Paris, Brussels, London and Barcelona. In the convent, she was a pianist, organist and choir director.

After leaving the order and returning to the states, she became Human Resources manager for Credit Lyonnais on Wall Street.



Sheriff's SMW Substation to open January 2009

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office will open a substation next month to serve the southwest area of the county on Highway 19 south of the Sugarmill Woods entrance in a facility which formerly housed Maronda Homes. It will provide facilities for deputies and detectives to complete paper work and conduct interviews with area crime victims.

Community Resource Officer Steve Smith will headquarter in the facility which will also be staffed by volunteers who will offer information to residents and visitors to the area. Volunteers are needed. To assist in this new operation, call Lt. Charlie Simmons at 795-3107, Ext. 324.



Fire Chief Morabito Looks to the Future

Citrus County Fire Chief Larry Morabito, who started to work in Citrus County in August, has begun a look into the future trying to develop a 5 to 10 year plan to improve coverage in the county.

Speaking to residents at a Civic Association Citizens Outreach Program, Morabito explained that some of the current fire stations need to be relocated to properly serve the population growth trends. He said that some stations, specifically the one in Chassowitzka are where they are because someone donated the property.

Beginning in fire service as a volunteer fire fighter 30 years ago, Morabito is a firm supporter of the volunteer concept in Citrus County, but expressed a constant need to recruit volunteers.



School Superintendent Encouraged by Progress

Sandra "Sam" Himmel, Superintendent of Citrus County Schools, is proud of the number of state-rated "A" schools in her system, the 4th highest rating of the 67 Florida county systems. There are 22 schools in the county serving 15,900 students.

She supervises a staff of 2,400: 1,236 in instruction, 1,200 in support and administration. The 2008-09 budget is \$109,539,802, 59 percent from local taxes and 41 percent from state funds. The system pays \$3,971 per student, down from \$4,163 last year. The graduation rate in the schools is 76 percent.

Himmel explained that of the 5 categories used to set millage rates, 4 are determined by the state legislature. The county can set the millage only for capital expenditures and it has a cap that cannot be exceeded. While the system has a current capital budget of \$45,000,000, it has no capital debt.



Florida Turnpike Study of Suncoast Parkway II Continuing

Planning for the proposed extension of the Suncoast Parkway through Citrus County is approaching the 60 percent planning stage and will be ready for a formal public hearing to be scheduled next Spring.

Speaking to Sugarmill Woods residents in October, Peter Kuhne, Project Manager for the project, explained there is little likelihood the route of the extension will be moved from the current route along the Progress Energy power line corridor. That path would place the highway within 700' to 800' of the closest Sugarmill Woods homes.

He stressed that the plan is designed to minimize the any impact to the environment.

The extension will stretch 26 miles through the county at a preliminary price estimate of \$700,000,000. Preliminary studies confirm the extension will take vehicles off of county roads and there will be no costs to the county for ramps or overpasses.

More details will be available at the formal public hearing in the Spring.

Civic Association Makes a Contribution to Homosassa Food Pantry Project

For several years, the Homosassa Civic Club has offered a "We Care" food pantry program which serves over 900 families in the west side of the county. The food is donated by local commercial corporations, picked up, sorted and distributed by volunteers. Recently, the program received the donation of a large, commercial walk-in freezer from the Friends of the Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park which can hold 12,000 pounds of food products. Because the pantry program is unfunded, the need for money to install the freezer had to be found.

The Sugarmill Woods Civic Association Board was made aware of the need by Board member Warren Blodgett, who is also a member of the Homosassa Club. After some deliberation, the Sugarmill Board voted to make a contribution toward the installation costs.

It was a unique coupling of efforts by two civic associations rarely seen in the area.

Diane Toto, President of the Homosassa Club, was grateful for the "generous contribution" and praised the Sugarmill Board for recognizing the need to attack the hunger crisis in our area. President Duane Dueker said the Sugarmill organization understands the need and he offered praise to the more than 30 Sugarmill residents who volunteer their time and talents to the food pantry program.



Oak Hill Hospital CEO Finds Fault with the System

Mickey Smith, CEO of Oak Hill Hospital in Brooksville, offered a group of Sugarmill Woods residents this appraisal of the health care system in the United States: "We spend more than any other industrialized nation and have one of the poorest systems". It is a system that encourages waste. Smith believes there is enough money to provide adequate care, but our system "is terribly, terribly broke". He added: "Medicare is paying physicians less than it did 7 years ago.

The key to fixing the system is to reconsider the incentives. "There is no incentive for wellness". He encourages people to stay healthy, see your physician regularly and go to the hospital only as a last resort. And, his most important advice: "we only get one body. We must take care of it".

CMHS Healthcare Center Construction Underway

Construction of the Citrus Memorial Healthcare Center at Sugarmill Woods was begun in November. The \$5 million facility will provide an out-patient clinic and comprehensive diagnostic services in its 21,400 square foot structure. Located on the current site of the Family Health Care office of Dr. Timothy Peterson just north of the Highway 19 entrance to Sugarmill Woods, the facility is expected to open in the Fall of 2009. The center will be open Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5 PM, but the walk-in clinic hours may be extended to include weekend hours if needed.

Civic Association Membership Drive Underway

The annual membership campaign of the Sugarmill Woods Civic Association began in November. This 30 year old organization is dedicated to maintaining conditions in the development that attracted residents here by working with local and state officials and agencies. Membership is voluntary. Dues are \$15.00 a year. Applications can be found on the first page of the Sugarmill Woods 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 ~ Duane Dueker
Vice President ~ Madelyn McCorkle
Secretary ~ Jim Roys
Treasurer ~ Charlie Hoke

Board Members

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

Consultants

Skip Christensen ~ Norm Wagy ~ Pat Schuessler

www.sugarmillcivic.org

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.



Looking back on 2008, we continue to experience great success with our Community Outreach Program meetings. This year we held fourteen meetings. Our guest speakers included Citrus County Property Appraiser Melanie Hensley, County Administrator Anthony Schembri, Sheriff Jeff Dawsey, Fire Chief Larry Morabito, and Superintendent of Public Schools Sandra Himmel, Oak Hill Hospital CEO Mickey Smith, SWFWMD Executive David Moore, Citrus Memorial Health System officials, Florida Turnpike Enterprise officials, and many others. Our goal for this program is to invite county, state, and company executives to meet with residents and discuss key programs and issues affecting you. We plan to continue this program and we look for your input on subjects and speakers of interest to you.

A special thanks to all residents of Sugarmill Woods for your support of our water conservation efforts. In the summer of 2007, we were consuming water at a rate 1 1/2 times our allotted permit limit, close to 3 million gallons per day vs. our permit limit of 2.030 million gallons per day. The usage is measured on a "Rolling 12 Month Annual Daily Average". With the report of the October, 2008 pumpage numbers, our water consumption is below our permit limit for the second consecutive month. Our current water consumption is 1.966 million gallons per day or 97% of our permit limit. Thank you for doing your part.

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 to all of you and your families for a Happy Holiday Season.

Daare Daeker

Telephone Directory Distribution

The 2009 Sugarmill Woods telephone directory has been published and distributed to every home in Sugarmill Woods. Anyone who has not received a directory may contact Norm Wagy, 382-4462.