

# Sugarmill Woods

February 2009  
Newsletter



# Civic Association

108 Cypress Boulevard West  
Homosassa, Florida 34446

## **Commissioner Meek to seek new "vision" for Citrus County**

Saying he was unhappy with the direction of the county, former Sugarmill Woods resident Joe Meek sought and won a seat on the Board of County Commissioners last November, his first run for public office.

Speaking at the Civic Association's annual January meeting, Meek pledged to work to reduce county spending, promote economic growth and develop a plan that sets a course for the county for the next 20 years. He said the Commissioners have established a series of committees to study where the county is and where it is headed.

"We realize that, as a government, we must look for ways to reduce our spending and, therefore, reduce taxes for homeowners". He wants a department-by-department study to examine the functions of those departments and spend only what is necessary to operate and "no more". He has suggested that some services may be more efficiently provided by private businesses.

"We are going to look across the board. Everything is on the table".

Meek had special praise for Sugarmill residents in two areas: the best voter turnout percentage in Citrus County and for a dramatic decrease in water consumption.

"As the vote goes in Sugarmill Woods, it goes in the entire county. You are a power house". Sugarmill voters had the highest November election day turnout in the county and one of the highest in the state of Florida.

He said a new 500,000 gallon water storage tank will be built off Corkwood Blvd. beginning in March and a systematic program of renewing and enhancing lift stations will occur during the year. "The county must make sure that your water and waste water systems are maintained and properly planned for".

Meek believes the Suncoast Parkway will be beneficial to Citrus County, but he promises that the county government will do everything it can to prevent harm to the neighboring communities if it is constructed.

A recycle center near Sugarmill Woods is needed, but its location, design and construction must be decided with the county meeting the concerns of its neighbors. The commissioner is convinced that mutual cooperation will make it an acceptable facility.

His long term goal is to "preserve our most precious asset: our environment. We are the jewel of the Nature Coast" and he has pledged to work diligently to protect it.



### **Community Outreach Programs Scheduled**

#### ***Citrus County Commissioner Winn Webb***

Tuesday, March 3 - 6:30 PM  
Sugarmill Woods Country Club

#### ***Citrus Memorial Hospital CEO Ryan Beaty***

Tuesday, March 31

#### **Water Conservation / Management**

March / April

#### ***Citrus County Property Appraiser Geoff Greene***

Tuesday, April 21



*Watch for further details in Civic Association e-mail bulletins, postings on our bulletin board on Cypress Blvd. and other frequented sites around Sugarmill Woods.*

*To receive bulletins, provide your e-mail address to: [president@sugarmillcivic.org](mailto:president@sugarmillcivic.org)*

### **New Civic Association Board Members**

Three new directors were elected at the annual meeting. (from left to right) Deborah Faunce, a previous Board member, Michael Howard and Francesca Paar began three year terms in January.

Board members Richard Eisner, Ross Knudsen and Ed Schiller, whose terms expired, agreed to continue to serve an additional term.

Madelyn McCorkle and Ardath Prendergast completed their terms.

At its annual January organizational meeting, the new Board of Directors elected its slate of officers for 2009. President Duane Dueker was reelected as was Treasurer Charlie Hoke. Jim Roys will serve as Vice President and Warren Blodgett is the new Secretary.



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### **Progress Energy Seeks Rate Reduction**

Partially in response to a storm of customer complaints about a 25% increase in their January electric bills, Progress Energy has petitioned the Florida Public Service Commission for a rate reduction beginning in April.

If granted, the rate increase of a \$27.00 increase per 1000 kilowatt hours would be reduced to \$12.00.

Because of a law passed in 2006, the PSC granted the company approval of the rate increase which took effect in January. Part of the increase was to cover increased fuel costs and part of it was to pay pre-construction costs of a nuclear facility the company plans to build in Levy County. The plant is scheduled to go on line in 2017.

A crowd of Sugarmill Woods residents voiced strong displeasure with the increases during a Community Outreach Program sponsored by the Civic Association.

Company officials were grilled on why current customers are being charged for a plant whose production is so far in the future. They were told the Florida legislature voted unanimously to allow utilities to charge customers pre-construction costs for land acquisition, planning and other developmental costs as they are incurred. In this case, the ruling permitted the company to bill its customers up to \$5 billion toward the final estimated cost of \$17 billion.

To questions about the increase in fuel costs when energy prices are sinking, company Vice President Martha Barnwell explained that when fuel prices vary by 10%, up or down, the company files a rate adjustment brief with the PSC.

The residents attending the meeting were harshly critical, visibly upset and frustrated.

State lawmakers also got the message. State Senator Mike Fasano (R. Dist. 11) is leading an effort to rewrite the 2006 legislation to amend the results the legislature and Governor Jeb Bush did not foresee. One suggestion is to extend the cost recovery over a longer period of years. Another is to completely eliminate the pre-construction surcharge to customers and encourage Progress Energy to raise the capital via bonds or the issuance of stock.

It was also suggested that Progress Energy and the state of Florida approach the US Government together to seek "infrastructure money" from the stimulus package to build the nuclear plant. Since Progress Energy sells energy on the open market and sells interest in these nuclear plants, many more residents than just the immediate customers of Progress Energy will benefit from the plant.

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### **Citrus Memorial Healthcare Center on schedule**

Officials from Citrus Memorial hospital told a group of residents that the Healthcare Center at Sugarmill Woods is meeting its construction schedule and should be open in September. George Mavros, Director of Professional Services and a Sugarmill resident, presented an optimistic outlook saying construction is actually slightly ahead of schedule.

Ryan Beaty, the hospital CEO, added enthusiastic comments about the facility and suggested that if the demand is here, perhaps a free-standing emergency room can be constructed on the site, north of the Sugarmill entrance on Highway 19. Beaty emphasized this is a long-range proposal, 2 or 3 years down the road, at the earliest.



At a Community Outreach meeting, a crowd of over 120 Sugarmill residents were given a review of the services that will be available in the new building which will include a walk-in clinic, permanent blood donor facility, a major rehabilitation therapy center including aquatics therapy and complete diagnostic capabilities. Officials predict patients will be able to receive just about every care short of surgery when the facility attains its full function.



## SMW Telephone Directory Updates

|                                    |                         |                |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Ron & Ginger Ballenger             | 1 Shumard Ct., S        | 302-1002       |
| Charles & Eva Belletsky            | 7 Sweet William Ct.     | 382-0084       |
| Fred & Patricia Blake              | 1 Ryewood Cir.          | 382-7554       |
| John & Judy Buxton                 | 6 Byrsonima Cir.        | 382-3695       |
| Michael Cokus & Carol Garvin       | 4 Mastic Ct., W         | 503-5347       |
| Richard Dorff & Michelle L'Heureux | 6 Cleome Ct.            | 382-0987       |
| Lynn & Sandra Dostal               | 30 Smilax Ct., N        | 503-6045       |
| Alan & Patricia DuFour             | 12 Linder Cir.          | 382-1972       |
| Donald R. Henderson                | 7 Spruce Pine Ct., N    | 382-0841       |
| Wilbert & Elizabeth Iman           | 105 Byrsonima Cir.      | 382-1719       |
| Jack & Angelina Keene              | 13 Grevillea Ct.        | 382-1212       |
| John & Marlene Listwan             | 6 Poppy St.             | 382-1177       |
| Daniel & Beverly Martinko          | 1 Linder Dr.            | 382-9024       |
| Terry & Nancy Maschman             | 25 Lemington Ct.        | 503-7011       |
| Hank & Varaporn McClelland         | 14 Bonnie Ct., S        | 293-8037       |
| Ed & Carol McConnaughey            | 43 Oak Village Blvd., S | 503-7414       |
| Richard & Mary McNeece             | 21 Byrsonima Ct., S     | 382-0650       |
| Elvin & Jennifer Miller            | 37 Jamaica St.          | (937) 336-0162 |
| Allen & Sallyann Moore             | 24 Woodfield Cir.       | 476-8172       |
| James & Lucile Morrissey           | 32 Pine St.             | 382-3403       |
| Michael & Sandra Mosier            | 17 Whitewood Ct.        | 503-7534       |
| Robert & Carol Swiderski           | 42 Byrsonima Lp., W     | 382-4269       |
| Edward & Mary Tomkins              | 29 Sanders Cir.         | 464-3741       |
| Priscilla Uhle                     | 5 Jungleplum Ct., S     | 382-4464       |
| Jim & Joyce Wicker                 | 26 Village Center Dr.   | 503-3326       |
| Guy & Claudia Yaple                | 19 Geranium Ct.         | 503-6176       |



The 2010 telephone directory with new listings and requested changes will be published in November.

### **Civic Association makes annual gift to Crime Watch**

Meeting at the new Citrus County Sheriff sub-station on Highway 19, Board member Jim Roys (center) presented Crime Watch President Richard Byrnes (left) a check to provide uniforms for new drivers and to defray other expenses. Looking on is Elizabeth Howard, one of the 90-plus drivers who currently volunteer. A grateful Byrnes said: "The Sugarmill Woods Civic Association is the only local group that provides us constant support which we deeply appreciate." Byrnes welcomes inquiries from potential drivers at 382-5388.



### **Fire hydrant renewal program underway**

The Citrus County Water Department has begun a systematic inspection of each of the 600-plus fire hydrants in Sugarmill Woods. Over the coming months, every hydrant will be tested, tagged, refurbished, repaired and painted. The project is scheduled to be completed later this year.

Residents are reminded that hydrants must not be surrounded with planting, fences or any debris that hide them or restrict access. For easy accessibility and safety, hydrants must be clearly visible from the street. Plantings must be trimmed to remain at least 12 inches below the center.

Homeowners are responsible if access is obstructed. Violators will be given a warning by the county to comply within 30 days. If the county has to clear the area around a hydrant, the homeowner will be charged for the work done.

*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 ~ Jim Roys  
 Treasurer ~ Charlie Hoke  
 Secretary ~ Warren Blodgett

#### **Board Members**

Richard Eisner ~ Deborah Faunce  
 Michael Howard ~ Ross Knudsen  
 Francesca Paar ~ Tom Paslay  
 Ed Schiller ~ Nancy Weber

#### **Consultants**

Skip Christensen ~ Norm Wagy

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

## **Message from the President**

The Civic Association Board is off and running this year and focusing on a number of activities and issues that are of importance to the community. We started the year with our Annual meeting and an excellent guest speaker, Commissioner Joe Meek, who is committed to help establish a new strategy and direction for Citrus County. In addition, three new board members were elected and they are already actively working for you. I encourage you get to know them and the rest of the Board members and let them know what your issues and concerns are so we can address them real time.



The Civic Association Board added a new committee this year to track activity at the Board of County Commissioners meetings. A board member has volunteered to attend these meetings and keep all of us informed of important agenda items and key issues. The remaining committees have been carried over from last year. The listing of the various committees and members will be posted on our web site at [www.sugarmillcivic.org](http://www.sugarmillcivic.org).

We have already kicked off our Community Outreach Program meetings for 2009 with many more excellent speakers lined up. The details of who is speaking, when, and where can be found in Sugarmill Woods Bulletins, the three village web sites, and bulletin boards around the community. If you are not on the distribution list for these bulletins and wish to be added, please send an email to [president@sugarmillcivic.org](mailto:president@sugarmillcivic.org).

We are continuing our periodic meetings with the utilities group, primarily Progress Energy and Withlacoochee River Electric, Citrus County Water Resources, and Citrus County Public Works and Solid Waste Management. With regards to Progress Energy, we will continue to press for relief on the recent increase in the utility rates. We need your help in contacting your legislators and the Florida Public Service Commission if you believe change is needed. Sample letters, mailing addresses, and email addresses were provided in recent email bulletins and are available to help residents communicate with their legislators and voice their position on this subject. Many residents have already contacted them. If you have not done so, please consider it.

The renewal application for the Sugarmill Woods Water Usage Permit is now in process. With regards to recycling, the proposed site off of County Road 480 has been put on hold while the Civic Association works with the county to find a more appropriate site. A meeting is planned early next month to address an alternative site. In addition, the Civic Association is working with current SMW waste haulers to establish a residential pick up of recycle materials. Southern Woods POA Board has committed support for the program and we are scheduling meetings with the Cypress Village POA and Oak Village Association Boards in March to review the proposed program. If approved, the implementation would begin in the 2nd Quarter of 2009.

*Duane Dueker*

Residents of Cypress Village, Oak Village & Southern Woods  
Homosassa, Florida 34446

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