

Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

December 2009
Newsletter



108 Cypress Blvd West
Homosassa, FL 34446

Sugarmill Woods Civic Association's 30th Annual Meeting

Monday, January 18, 2010 ~ 7:00 PM
First United Methodist Church
8831 West Bradshaw Blvd., Homosassa, FL

Agenda

Call to Order ~ Duane Dueker, President
State of the Association

Introduction of Candidates for the Board of Directors

Guest Speaker: **U.S. Representative Ginny Brown-Waite**

Adjournment



Association schedules two Community Outreach Programs



Sugarmill Woods residents are invited to attend two programs in early 2010 for updates on current issues.

On Tuesday, January 19, representatives from Prograss Energy will appear at the Sugarmill Woods Country Club to describe ways to conserve energy, explain how Home Audits can be helpful, discuss rebates that are available to its customers and report on new alternative energy sources. The program is scheduled from 6:30 PM until 7:45 PM.

On Tuesday, February 2, Citrus Memorial Health System CEO Ryan Beaty will provide an update on the activity at the Sugarmill Woods Healthcare Center and explain what is available to patients at the Heart Center located in the former primary care center at that location. Mr Beaty will also be available to answer questions about the status of the Citrus Memorial Health System in general. The meeting will be held at the Sugarmill Woods Country Club from 6:30 to 7:45 PM.

Civic Association sponsors informative meetings

Over the past several months, a series of Community Outreach Meetings presented by the Civic Association included District 5 County Commissioner Gary Bartell, County Administrator Brad Thorpe; editorial personnel from the Citrus County Chronicle and Commission Chairman John Thrumston, District 4.

Commissioner Gary Bartell, new Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

praised the county for anticipating revenue shortages early and making budget cuts before the end of the fiscal year. "We started to look for ways we could cut our expenses three years ago. This year was extremely tough". He explained this process helped Citrus County avoid the fate of other Florida counties that faced huge deficits.



County Administrator Brad Thorpe



said the county budget was cut by 10 percent, but added that all essential services have been maintained. He warned that next year may be as bad or worse. To reduce the major expense of disposing of solid waste, he announced he is working with officials from eight surrounding counties to develop a regional system.

Noting the recent turnover in Citrus County Administrators, Thorpe said he speaks to every commissioner everyday, holding nothing back. "I can't live in fear and perform this job".

Citrus County Chronicle Editor Charlie Brennan

led a team of newspaper employees who came to Sugarmill Woods to ask: "What can we do to improve? We're here to learn." Residents were not shy in expressing a belief that the newspaper neglects the west side of the county, complaining that the rare mentions of Sugarmill Woods are usually negative. Brennan promised the newspaper will expand its coverage of local events and invited residents to call him with news tips and ideas.



Commissioner John Thrumston



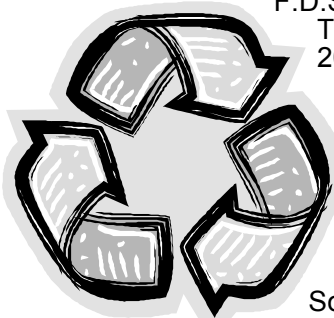
who was then the chairman of the Board, reported there is a new attitude of cooperation among the five County Commissioners that is reaping results. In two years, the budget has been cut by \$17 million, personnel have been reduced by almost 100 and the ad valorem millage has been reduced by 24 percent. Thrumston

expressed grave concern about the fire rescue system in the county which has only four fire stations, 36 professional firefighters and a greatly reduced volunteer corps. Improving this condition will call for a one mill increase in taxes. "Whether it costs me an election or not, we must do it".

Civic Association President Duane Dueker is putting the final touches on a schedule of Community Outreach Meetings to be presented in early 2010. Announcements of those meetings will be made in his regular e-mail bulletins to residents. To be included on that mailing list, e-mail addresses can be sent to: DuaneDueker@aol.com.



Residential recycle underway in Southern Woods



F.D.S. Disposal began its regular weekly recycle pick-up in Southern Woods in November. The company plans to expand the service into Cypress Village and Oak Village in early 2010.

It has been nearly a year since F.D.S. owner William Ray and Recycle Manager Randy Messer first proposed offering the service in Sugarmill Woods. It has taken the ensuing months to finalize the details.

The basic service is to collect household trash at the side door on Tuesday; Curb side pickup of yard waste on Wednesday; and side door collection of recycle material on Fridays.

Some customers will see a slight increase in their fee; others will see a significant decrease in their quarterly fee, depending on the number of services they now have.

Details of the program were outlined in an E-mail Bulletin distributed by Civic Association President Duane Dueker on December 7th. Residents who do not receive these messages can be placed in the data base by sending their e-mail address to: DuaneDueker@aol.com.

A video on how single stream recycling works is available at www.fdsdisposalinc.com

Cypress Village and Oak Village residents who want the service made available to them are urged to contact Mr. Messer at 746-061or fdsdisposalinc.messer4@gmail.com.

Mr. Dueker reports that efforts to establish a recycle center in this area by the Citrus County Department of Public Works continue, but no suitable site has been found.



SMW telephone directories scheduled for mid-January delivery

The new publisher of the Civic Association's annual telephone directory, Mike Buchanan, President of Excel Printing in Crystal River, has announced that the 2010 Sugarmill Woods telephone directory should be in the mail to every residence in the community by the middle of January.

This will be the 31st edition since the Civic Association distributed its first, simple mimeographed copy in 1979.

Beverly Hills, Citrus Hills and Citrus Springs share the advertising pages and revenues with Sugarmill Woods in an historic arrangement dating back many years. *The Citrus County Chronicle* published the directories for the last eight years, but decided it was no longer practical for it to continue.

For Buchanan, "this is a major undertaking for us. We're learning as we go along, but we are confident we can meet our deadline and we know the systems we are developing this year will make the process much easier in future years".



Richard Hirsch Is a Board Candidate

Richard (Dick) Hirsch and his wife, Jeanine, moved to Oak Village South in September, 2008 after he retired as a Senior Vice President of Communications for Covenant House, a New York-based organization devoted to homeless young people.

Covenant House provides job training for its residents in 22 locations in six countries. It operates on a budget of over \$100 million. Mr. Hirsch's responsibilities included media relations, producing videos to assist in fund raising, the annual reports and public inquiries. He served in that job for 13 years. Jeanine Hirsch is employed as the Director of Development for Pasco-Hernando Community College in Port Richey.

Richard's desire to promote the benefits of Sugarmill Woods and to preserve its welfare and security inspired him to volunteer for the Civic Association Board of Directors.

Sugarmill residents volunteers assist in the We Care Food Program



Sugarmill Woods residents regularly volunteer for the We Care Food Pantry conducted by the Homosassa Civic Club. Bill Pearson and Ross Knudsen, shown with Diane Toto, Chair of the food program, helped distributed turkeys to 600 families for Thanksgiving dinner. Food distribution at the club in Old Homosassa continued from 6 AM 'til 3 PM. Ms. Toto reports that the local need for food and assistance is "overwhelming". She is grateful that community organizations like the Sugarmill Woods Civic Association will step up to help. "A lot of us are just one pay check away from being desperate. It's heartwarming to receive this help". More than 30 Sugarmill Woods residents volunteered at the 35th Annual Homosassa Arts, Crafts and Seafood Festival, proceeds of which are invested in the community with a focus on children and education.



Civic Association Contributes To The Path of Citrus County

Board member Ross Knudsen presents a donation to Path Development Director Kathryn Sipper and volunteer Roger Albritton. After extending thanks to the Civic Association, Ms. Sipper said: "Your generosity will benefit many people at the shelter with food and other needed items during these tough times".

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

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Vice President ~ Jim Roys
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Newsletter

Content - N. Wagay
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www.sugarmillcivic.org

Message from the President

It's that time of year again to reflect on the events and memories of this past year and to be thankful for all 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 this time to enjoy the holiday season with those close to you.



Looking back on 2009, we held thirteen Community Outreach Program Meetings to give residents a chance to meet and discuss issues and concerns with local government officials and community leaders. We also issued more than 72 SMW Bulletins to keep residents informed. Some of our guest speakers included four of the five County Commissioners - Commissioners Bartell, Meek, Thrumston, and Webb; County Administrator Brad Thorpe, County Property Appraiser Geoff Greene, Sheriff Jeff Dawsy, Citrus County Emergency Operations Center Director Captain Joseph Eckstein, County Health Department Administrator Teresa Goodman, Citrus County Chronicle Editor Charlie Brennan, and Progress Energy Regional Vice President Martha Barnwell. We worked with both Oak Hill Hospital and Citrus Memorial to arrange tours of their facilities for interested residents.

We held several meetings between Citrus Memorial officials and residents to keep everyone updated on the progress of the new Citrus Memorial Healthcare Center which opened in September, 2009. The new Heart Center opened a couple of months later.

We worked closely with F.D.S. Disposal to get residential pick up of recycled materials started in one village of Sugarmill Woods and we hope to get the program expanded throughout our community by early 2010.

We held a Water Conservation workshop this year and will continue our focus in this area in 2010. We are also working with the County Extension Service to seek out ways we can help residents address their landscaping and watering concerns.

We want to hear from you to get your input on meeting subjects and speakers of interest as well as any issues and concerns that you might have so we can address them in real time. You can contact me via email at DuaneDueker@aol.com.

Again, best wishes to all of you and your families for a Happy Holiday Season.

Duane Dueker