

Sugarmill Woods Civic Association



September 2010
Newsletter

108 Cypress Blvd West
Homosassa, FL 34446
www.sugarmillcivic.org

Community Outreach Program



“How County Government Really Works”

Speaker: Citrus County's Gary Maidhof
Director of Operations and Special Projects

Wednesday October 6th, 2010
6:30 - 7:45 p.m.
Sugarmill Woods Country Club

Gary Maidhof is a long term county employee and top member of the management team who has held a number of different positions within the county. He knows what goes on and how things get done. In his new position as Director of Operations and Special Projects, he is responsible to identify specific areas for improving effectiveness in operations and inter agency cooperation and identify cost savings in these tough economic times. Mr. Maidhof will speak on the challenges and issues facing Citrus County over the next few years and answer questions from residents.

Highway 19 Sheriff substation closed

As he warned at a Civic Association Community Outreach Program in April, Sheriff Jeff Dawsy made the decision to close the substation opposite the Sugarmill Woods main entrance.

“We want the substation to be there, but we had to make this decision due to budgetary constraints. We don't like that we had to close it, but that's reality,” said Dawsy.

He added that his office has a strong presence in the west side of the county and will remain active in Sugarmill Woods, which he has previously described as one of the safest locations in the county.

The Sheriff told residents in April that the substation was a \$35,000 item in his budget.



Florida Friendly Garden being installed near Sugarmill main entrance



A joint venture of several organizations is being developed into a beautiful Florida Friendly Garden in the Cypress Village community. The 200 by 300 foot section is located between the A-frame office and the Information Wall on Cypress Boulevard.

The Cypress Village Property Owners Association has enlisted the help of the Citrus County Water Resources Department, SWIFTMUD and the County Extension Service to create the education park. Westcoast Landscaping has been contracted to create it.

Warren Blodgett, project chairman, explains the garden will display plants that can thrive in this climate with minimal water irrigation and provide a beautiful setting to enhance the entrance area. The garden should be completed by October 1st.

Homosassa library greeters are in a temporary "time out"

The sculpture of the little boy and his dog that has greeted patrons at the entrance of the Homosassa Library since it opened has been missing for several months, but it's a temporary absence.

County ground maintenance employees discovered the sculpture had been shaken loose from its foundation, so it has been placed in safekeeping until a more secure method of mounting it can be devised.

Library staffers describe the boy and his puppy in a "time out".

It is presumed the attempted dislodging was the work of vandals attempting to steal it. A police report has been filed with the Sheriff's Office. Vandals have defaced the other two garden sculptures on the grounds, but both have been restored with no permanent damage.

Gifts of the Sugarmill Woods Civic Association, the sculptures have been a popular attraction at the new library since it opened in December, 2007.

Susan Mutschler, branch manager, reports that the garden sculptures are the subject of "positive comments on a daily basis from patrons and we often see parents taking their child's photo with one or more of them". She adds: "members of the community lovingly ask us, sometimes numerous times a day, about the missing boy statue".

Before the boy and his dog can be put back in place, some minor repair work on the brass base must be done and that requires special attention.

But, library officials promise: "they will return".



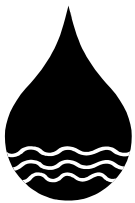
At the entrance



In "time out"

Water expert explains where it comes from and where it goes

A group of Sugarmill Woods residents were treated to an informative Community Outreach Program with Debbe Hooper in August. Ms. Hooper is a water conservation specialist with Citrus County Water Resources.



She explained that Florida receives 150 billion gallons of rainwater a day. Of that, 70% evaporates; 15% recharges aquifers; and 15% runs off to the nearest body of water. Storm water runoff carries oil, pesticides and other pollutants that can harm water quality. Lower usage of such pollutants can improve water quality.

She outlined simple ways residents can reduce their use of water including: reducing the size of irrigated areas and pesticides on it; irrigate only as much as needed (1" soaks 1' into sandy soil); sweeping or blowing driveways clean can save 80 or more gallons each time; shutting off water while brushing teeth can save 4 gallons a minute; washing only full loads in dishwashers and washing machines can save up to 600 gallons a month as can repairing toilet leaks.

After her introductory presentation, Ms. Hooper showed a film entitled "Water's Journey, The Hidden Rivers of Florida". The film is a documentary created by the late famed underwater photographer Wes Skiles about a journey through the Florida Aquifer. It was filmed in north Florida. Two divers follow the path of the water underground for ten miles and two scientists track them above ground. The photography was outstanding. The film was produced by Karst Productions. The Civic Association is working with the Homosassa Library to have a DVD copy available for Library members interested in borrowing it.

"Over 8 billion gallons of water a day burst forth from Florida's springs ... the most unique concentration of springs on the planet. At one time it was thought to be an endless supply, but now the demands of man are starting to exceed availability.

Ms. Hooper stressed that "everyone" has a responsibility to protect and conserve our natural resources.

2011 telephone directory being prepared

The 2011 Sugarmill Woods Telephone Directory will be published and delivered in January. New residents who wish to be included or residents who want a change in their listing should provide their information by November 1st.

An Enumeration/Membership Application is in the front of the current directory. Once the form is completed, it can be mailed or dropped in the Association's box at the Cypress Village entrance communications wall.

New residents frequently assume that their listing will automatically appear in this directory when they contract for telephone service. That is not the case. This directory is created by the Civic Association with no relationship to any telephone service provider. There is no charge to be listed in the SMW Telephone Directory. It is voluntary.

For the second year, the book will be published by Excel Publishing in Crystal River. Last year's edition received near unanimous praise. Mike Buchanan, president of the company, pledges to make improvements now that his staff has experience in this major project.

Questions about the directory may be directed to its editor, Norm Wagay, at nwagay@tampabay.rr.com or to President Duane Dueker at DuaneDueker@aol.com



Ambulance service being improved in the county

Nature Coast EMS Service director Mike Hall outlined improvements in the emergency medical service that have been made, are planned and underway to a group of Sugarmill Woods residents at a Civic Association Community Outreach Program Meeting in July.

The nonprofit corporation, which has an exclusive contract to provide ambulance service in Citrus County, is increasing the number of units from 9 to 15 during the busiest daytime hours, an improvement which will require additional equipment and personnel. Fewer units will be in service during slower periods. EMS plans to utilize these additional units around the County where the peak demand requirements dictate.

A GPS (*Global Positioning System*) has been created to assist drivers in finding the locations of emergencies and enables dispatchers to know where every unit is positioned. Another improvement permits hospital personnel to monitor EKG readings en route and auto pulse machines provide constant CPR to the patient.

An EMT training program is being developed to train and retain local talent as future employees.

The contract requires the company to deliver an average response time of 7 minutes and 30 seconds. Its current performance averages 7 minutes and 15 seconds. Patients may choose the facility they wish to provide them care. If they have no choice, they will be transported to the nearest emergency center.

Nature Coast EMS is one of four ambulance providers in Florida and fewer than 130 in the United States to receive national accreditation.



Mike Hall

Civic Association supports local programs

The Civic Association not only works for the betterment of the Sugarmill Woods community, it supports other organizations which also serve local public concerns.

For many years, it has supported the local **Crime Watch** program. This year's gift will help in the purchase of printing supplies and uniform shirts for the volunteer drivers. They are the Sugarmill residents who patrol the streets of the development daily keeping an eye out for any suspicious or unusual activities that should be reported to the Sheriff's office.

SMW-CERT organization received two grants this year. The first was used to buy a large cabinet to store its equipment and supplies. The second was used to purchase medical kits to be used in emergencies. CERT volunteers are trained to be first responders in the event of a natural disaster when emergency agencies are overwhelmed with demands for its services.

Both of these Sugarmill organizations welcome volunteers. For Crime Watch, call Richard Byrnes, 382-5388. For SMW-CERT, call Gerry Brummer at 382-4446.

A monetary gift was presented to the local **Habitat for Humanity** to help with its ambitious plan for 2010-2011: the construction of nine new Habitat houses in Citrus County.

The **Path of Citrus County** was given a gift to assist in its work providing food, shelter and other needs for Citrus County homeless, released prisoners, fire victims, single mothers and children who need care.



Civic Association recruiting new Board members

Each Fall, the Board of Directors of the Civic Association conducts a recruitment drive to attract new members to serve three year terms beginning in January, 2011.

The only qualification required is to be a resident of Sugarmill Woods. Residents with special skills in finance, legal, engineering, public relations, utilities, and other professions are welcome as is anyone who has a desire to service fellow citizens.

The Board meets the second Monday afternoon of each month. Board members maintain a liaison with county and state officials, monitor utility services in the SMW community and interact with other local organizations.

Those interested may request further information from Duane Dueker, Board President, at 246-5597 or via email at DuaneDueker@aol.com.

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

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Content - Norm Wagy
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Message from the President

For those residents returning to their winter home here in Florida after an extended absence during the summer months, WELCOME Home! We are now working on our Fall / Spring schedule of Community Outreach Program meetings. We hope you take the opportunity to participate in these meetings.

Citrus County Fire Chief Larry Morabito reported that he is completing a long-range master plan on Fire Rescue Operations which will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in November or December. The Civic Association Board is working to influence the location of any new stations in Southwest Citrus County. Fire Chief Morabito announced that he has received a grant to help recruit volunteers. Given the age demographics for Citrus County, recruiting volunteers is very difficult to say the least. An Explorer Post has been formed to train local students from ages 14 to 21 with the hope they will become future volunteers or active fire fighters. The County is also exploring other options that would help minimize the volunteer shortage and perhaps provide some personnel for the currently unmanned station on County Road 480.

We all need to do our part to help reduce and eliminate crime in our community. Here is some helpful advice from the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. The Citrus County Sheriff's Office offers a "Free" Crime Prevention Survey to homeowners throughout Citrus County. The Crime Prevention Survey is conducted by a person from the Sheriff's Office who is a Certified Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner. The Sheriff's Office representative comes to your house and spends about an hour to an hour and a half surveying your home both inside and outside reviewing landscaping and shrubs around your home where intruders could hide and outside lighting which could help to deter intruders, checking doors and windows, locks, etc. and alarm systems. After completion of the survey, the homeowner is given a list of recommended changes to enhance the security of their home. The survey is free and it is voluntary if the homeowner makes all, some, or none of the suggested changes. It is your decision. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Sheriff's Office at 726-4488 and ask to schedule a Crime Prevention Survey.

We want to hear from you about any issues or concerns that you might have so we can address them real time. You can contact me via email at DuaneDueker@aol.com.

*Thank you,
Duane Dueker*

