

Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

March 2011 Newsletter

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

Community Outreach Program Meetings

Wednesday, March 30 -- James Sanders -- "History of Sugarmill Woods"

No one knows more about Sugarmill Woods than Jim Sanders. He has been here since the beginning. He was part of the beginning. 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM

Thursday, April 14 -- Water Conservation and Management Workshop

County water resources and UF/FAS Extension experts will be available to advise residents on saving water, taking care of lawns, Rebates, Florida Friendly plantings, and more. Bring your questions! 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Wednesday, April 20 -- County Property Appraiser Geoff Greene

He's the man who understands property values in Citrus County and what it means to county government budgets. 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM

Wednesday, May 11 -- Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsy

The Sheriff will offer his thoughts on the Public Safety Initiative Task Force and its recommendations. Also appearing, a representative of SMW Crime Watch to answer questions about this neighborhood service. 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM

Wednesday, June 1 -- EOC Deputy Director Robert Wesch

Emergency Operations Center Deputy Director Wesch will discuss hurricane preparation and other potential disasters. CERT representatives will describe their duties in SMW. 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM

All meetings are held at the Sugarmill Woods Country Club. Please mark your calendars for these five interesting and important meetings and please invite your friends and neighbors.

Sugarmill Woods 2nd Annual Food Drive Scheduled for April 30

The Civic Association, the three property owners' associations and the Sugarmill and Southern Woods Country Clubs have joined together to sponsor a "Fill the Truck Community Food Drive" to benefit the "We Care Food Pantry."

Last year's drive collected over 7,000 pounds of canned goods and household products and \$2,500 for the "We Care Food Pantry" to provide help and aid to those who are in desperate need of assistance.

The truck will be located on the Sugarmill Woods Country Club parking lot. Donations of canned meats, canned vegetables, pasta, peanut butter and jelly, cereal, powdered milk, paper products and personal care items will be collected by volunteers who will pack a truck and deliver the goods to the pantry for distribution. Questions may be asked of Marie Steidel at 503-7355 or Mary Lee Johnson at 503-3237.

Annual Meeting Focused on Citrus County Efforts to Attract Commerce and Jobs

Residents attending the annual meeting of the Civic Association in January heard how the county, the Economic Development Council (EDC) and the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce have joined together in a concerted effort to attract new business, commerce and jobs to the county.

Commissioner Joe Meek, who also serves as President of the EDC, said it is time for the county to reverse its image as "a difficult place to do business". "This is a new day in Citrus County. We are open for business." Steps to reverse that image were described including a moderation of impact fees that some have seen as a deterrent to attracting new business and discouraging expansion of current businesses. The county is also offering property tax incentives, capital expense assistance and training grants up to \$2,000 for each job created.

Meek added: "Ten years ago, commercial firms generated 55 percent of county tax revenues and residences provided 45 percent. Today, the reverse is true". With the the dramatic fall of real estate transactions, "we are in the worst recession that most of us can remember".



Commissioner Joe Meek

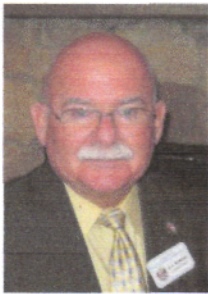


Chamber Pres Josh Wooten

Chamber President Josh Wooten explained that, historically, the county has relied on agriculture, tourism and the construction of new housing for its revenues. As construction has dropped dramatically and local unemployment reached 14 percent, it is time "to find ways to manufacture something here and sell it someplace else".

Wooten explained that the old days, when the county told new businessmen "you have to do this and have to pay that", are over. The Chamber is dedicated to spreading the word that times have changed and new business and commerce are welcome in Citrus County.

Commissioner John "JJ" Kenney - the first from Sugarmill Woods



Setting an historical precedent, John "JJ" Kenney is the first Sugarmill resident to ever serve on the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners. He was elected last November.

As he spoke to a Civic Association Community Outreach Program in February, Kenney admitted that his first weeks in office were a bit "overwhelming". He told his audience that he had no idea of the volume of complicated issues that he would face the day he took office.

He quickly decided that public safety is his number one issue and he assured residents that he is aware of and concerned with the slow response times of getting emergency fire and rescue equipment to Sugarmill Woods.

He awaits, with interest, the findings of an Initiative Task Force co-chaired by Sheriff Jeff Dawsy and Commissioner Joe Meek which is considering whether the consolidation of police, fire and emergency services would be beneficial. Kenney has appointed Civic Association Vice President Ed Schiller to serve as the District 2 representative on that task force which is supposed to make its findings known in April.

The fact that the county faces an \$18 million budget deficit must be resolved. "We must find new sources of revenue. We cannot hold car washes." Commissioner Kenney is convinced that the county cannot reduce staff further having cut 100 jobs in recent months. "The Lecanto government complex has more empty desks than employees". That means cuts must come in constituent services and those will be difficult and an unenviable task.

Commissioner Rebecca Bays Leads Drive to Expand Port Citrus



Citrus County District 4 Commissioner Rebecca Bays believes the barge canal in the northern sector of the county has the potential to bring major business and commerce to the county and become a source for hundreds of new jobs. She spoke to Sugarmill Woods residents at a Community Outreach Program earlier this month.

With the expansion of the Panama Canal scheduled to be completed in 2014 and the prospect of many ships carrying cargo into the Gulf of Mexico, Bays says the expansion of Port Citrus on the canal could be an attractive transfer point. She is convinced that private sources would provide funding for the expansion and is confident that the CXS railroad would be attracted to haul the goods away.

County Commissioners voted to spend \$50,000 to hire a firm to lobby the state legislature to pass legislation to declare the Cross Florida Barge Canal in Citrus County an established port.

"There are 14 ports in Florida seeking this business, but each of them has disadvantages. We are unique. We have the barge canal, the only one in Florida. There is plenty of land out there and no environmental issues. Someone is going to get that business. It might as well be us," she said.

SMW Water Plant Expansion in Operations

County officials joined local residents to dedicate the Sugarmill Woods new treatment and storage facility at Plant 2 on Power line Road a \$1.3 million project.

Installation of a 500,000 gallon storage tank triples the system's storage capacity to 1.5 million gallons and a new emergency generator and new high service pumps ensure better water pressure and added reserves to meet emergencies. The plant will have a minimum 10 hours of reserve water supplies.

New high pressure pumps will ensure better water pressure for the residents of Sugarmill Woods and Chassahowitzka.



Part of the new water system at Sugarmill Woods plant #2

500,000 gallon water tank added to Sugarmill Woods system



Attending the dedication of the four year water improvement project are: Jim Morgan, Contract Compliance Manager, Ed Schiller, Civic Association Vice President and Utility Committee Chair, Ted Swope, President of the Oak Village Association, Duane Dueker, President of the Civic Association, and Robert Knight, Director of Citrus County Water Resources Department.

The project was hailed as a major improvement for Sugarmill Woods and Chassahowitzka residents and will save \$100,000 annually in electrical and operational costs.

Two new Board Members elected at Civic Association Annual Meeting

Directors Marie Steidel and Mary Lee Johnson were elected to the Civic Association Board of Directors at the annual meeting in January. They will serve three year terms.

Marie Steidel has been appointed Membership Chair and both Marie and Mary Lee Johnson will serve on the Community Service Committee.



Telephone Directory Additions/Changes

Bynum, Mel & Eva	89 Golfview Dr.	503-3526
Chase, Kathy E.	140 Daisy St.	503-2664
Corrigan, June	35 Masters Dr.	503-6643
Draheim, Sharon M.	7 Statice Ct.	428-2082
Farnsworth, Joe & Kathy	34 Pine St.	503-2302
Hollweck, Dieter	6 Gerbera Ct.	503-2591
Hooper, Jesse	14 Mayflower Ct. S	382-5354
Latorre, Marilyn	28 Fringetree St.	503-6211
Lehman, John & Alicia	18 Hemlock Ct., S	NL
Mautte, Kevin & Elizabeth	177 Pine St.	382-7522
Neale, Nancy N.	17 Lysiloma Ct.	503-2186
Nealey, Charlie & Sharon	11 Douglas Ct. S	(305) 251-1259
Neuhaus-deCotret, Maggie	5 Gerberaq Ct.	503-2591
Petrie, Chris	1 Byrsonima Ct. W	(315) 768-2090
Perras, Michelle	1 Byrsonima Ct. W	(315) 768-2090
Preston, Ray	9 Gingerwood Dr.	382-7721
Thompson, Anne "Carroll"	11 Fiddlewood Ct.	382-5265

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 ~ Ed Schiller
Treasurer ~ Charlie Hoke
Secretary ~ Richard Hirsch*

Board Members

*Warren Blodgett ~ Richard Eisner
Michael Howard ~ Mary Lee Johnson
Ross Knudsen ~ Francesca Paar
Marie Steidel*

Consultants

*Skip Christensen ~ Norm Wagy
Newsletter
Content - Norm Wagy
Design - Madelyn McCorkle
www.sugarmillcivic.org*

Message from the President

The Civic Association Board members are working hard to serve you better. We are focused on a number of activities and issues that are important to the community. We started the year with our Annual Meeting on January 10 and followed that with an organization meeting on January 19 to elect new officers. We elected two new Board Members, Ms Marie Steidel and Ms. Mary Lee Johnson, who are focused on a new committee that we established with an emphasis on Community Service. In addition, Mary Lee will be working on the Public Relations committee and our web site. Marie is also responsible for Membership. I encourage you get to know Marie, Mary Lee, and the rest of the Board members and please visit our web site at **www.sugarmillcivic.org**.

We have a number of Community Outreach Program meetings scheduled for 2011 with many more excellent speakers lined up. Look for more information on these meetings in Sugarmill Woods Bulletins emailed to all of those residents who signed up for the free service, on bulletin boards around the community, and via the various village web sites. If you are not on the distribution list for the Sugarmill Woods Bulletins and wish to be added, please send an email to **president@sugarmillcivic.org**.

We continue to be engaged with Citrus County Water Resources and the Board of County Commissioners on water related issues. The April 14 Water Conservation and Management Workshop is one meeting that you will not want to miss. In addition, we are active in the Public Safety Initiative Task Force which is addressing the issue of additional funding for Fire Rescue Operations, a Fire Rescue station in the SMW area, and possible consolidation of Law Enforcement and Fire Rescue. The task force will be making their recommendations to the BOCC in April.

This month we sent another reminder notice to please consider joining the Sugarmill Woods Civic Association for 2011 if you have not done so already. We need your support and your active involvement to help us address key issues and concerns affecting our community. On behalf of the SMW Civic Association Board of 2011, we look forward to working with you and serving you throughout the year.

*Thank you,
Duane Dueker*