

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

June 8, 2010

Dear Residents,

The Sugarmill Woods Civic Association will be holding a Community Outreach Program meeting this month to focus on potential issues and concerns related to Fire Rescue Operations, Fire Rescue Station #18 (Sugarmill Woods / Chassahowitzka), and proposed changes for upgrading the overall Fire Rescue Operations facilities, capabilities, and organization in Citrus County.

We are honored to have **Citrus County Fire Chief Larry Morabito** as our guest speaker.

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 23, 2010 from 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM** at the **Sugarmill Woods Country Club.**

Several weeks ago, I received several emails from residents with concerns about the current status of the SMW Fire Station. I contacted Fire Chief Morabito to get a status update and shared the information with residents in a follow up Bulletin. Since then I have received more information, some of which is different than what I understood was the current status. Here is the latest status that I recently received from Fire Chief Morabito who has acknowledged that there has been a reduction in stations and equipment which is due to duplication, poor condition, lack of responders (long term), and / or department realignment. He also agrees that the current web site information is out of date and needs to be corrected.

Citrus County Fire Rescue is responsible for providing fire rescue, fire prevention, hazardous materials, and technical rescue services to a county of 660 square miles and approximately 143,000 citizens. Citrus County has one of the largest combination fire rescue systems in the State of Florida. The agency has a combined total of 192 career and volunteer members working out 14 currently active Fire Rescue Stations with one inactive station being reactivated in the near future. The current web site information is not accurate and is being revised.

With regards to current staffing, there are 49 Career members (36 operations, 3 inspectors, 5 administrative officers, and 5 support staff) and 143 Volunteer members (47 combat, 16 support, 56 trainees, and 24 rehab or auxiliary members) for a combined total of 192.

Citrus County Fire Rescue is both a Type II Hazmat Regional Response team and a Type II Technical Response Team for the State of Florida. Citrus County Fire Rescue has 17 engines (12 active engines, 2 training engines, and 3 reserve engines); 2 aerial companies (1 active and 1 new one not in service yet while personnel are being trained in its use); 15 brush trucks; 8 tankers; and 3 marine units used to fight marine fires and water rescue in the County's 189 miles of inland waterways and the Gulf of Mexico.

Within the next couple of months Fire Chief Morabito will be making proposals and recommendations to the BOCC for upgrading and enhancing Fire Rescue Operations. It is important for you to understand these proposed changes and provide your input. If you can, I strongly encourage you to attend this COP meeting.

Please join us and invite your friends and neighbors in Sugarmill Woods to come with you to the meeting. All of us should know what the latest status is and what is being proposed for upgrades to Citrus County Fire Rescue Operations.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker, President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

cc: Cypress Village POA, Oak Village Association, Southern Woods POA