

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

July 11, 2011

Dear Residents,

The Sugarmill Woods Civic Association together with Citrus County Water Resources will be hosting a Community Outreach Program meeting next week to focus on **Water Conservation, Irrigation Rules, and Best Practices of Lawn Fertilizers**. Guest speakers will be:

- **Debra Burden, Water Conservation Coordinator, Citrus County Water Resources**
- **Debbe Hooper, Water Conservation Specialist, Citrus County Water Resources**
- **Christine Collins, Southwest Florida Water Management District**

The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 19, 2011 from 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM** at the **Sugarmill Woods Country Club**. The meeting will consist of a couple short presentations and then a Q&A period for residents to ask questions of the experts.

In the June issue of the Greenbelt Gazette, there was a front page article entitled "**Citrus Water Introduces "Call Before You Install"**". The article focused on installing new lawns and plant materials, the need to call water resources to let them know you would be potentially watering more often than the allowed twice a week, and the need to continue our conservation practices.

Here are some facts that you should be aware of as we go through this period of the year with large numbers of lawns being replaced which has spiked water usage for the month of May, taking advantage of the rainy season to reduce your irrigation use, etc.

For the month of May, 2011, customer billed usage grew to over 73.4 million gallons of water for the month. This was the second highest month going all the way back to July, 2008. June Billings are expected to be even higher. How do we know? Because the well pumpage numbers for the month of May surpassed 104 million gallons a month, The last time the SMW wells pumped over 100 million gallons per month was May, 2008.

Another fact is code warnings and violations for illegal watering here in Sugarmill Woods. For the four month period from March, 2011 through June, 2011, **one hundred thirteen (113) irrigation code warnings** were issued and **sixteen (16) irrigation code violations were issued**. Fourteen were for fines of \$100 each and two (2) others were for second violations which are another \$250 fine for those individuals. We can and must do better. The COP meeting planned is to help you save water and money through the use of Best Practices.

Debra Burden and Debbe Hooper will discuss various **Water Conservation** topics including:

- Current Water Restrictions
- Qualifying Water Restriction Exemptions:
 - Lawn or plantings in excess of 50% of a zone – YES, applicable zone(s) only
 - Establishing a NEW lawn over bare ground – YES, applicable zone(s) only
 - Reseeding bare patches – YES, if bare spot is more than 50% of the applicable zone.
 - Over seeding an Existing Lawn – NO, this does not qualify for an exemption.
- Explanation of Watering Schedule for Qualifying Exemptions
- Call Before You Install Program
- Indoor Water Conservation Kit giveaway (Low water use showerhead and faucet aerators)

Christine Collins will discuss various topics related to **Proper Use of Fertilizers**:

- Benefits vs. Adverse effect of fertilizer
- When to apply fertilizer
- How to apply fertilizer
- How to select fertilizer
- How to maintain a healthy lawn
- Watering Tips

As part of each presentation, we encourage questions from residents.

Please join us and invite your friends and neighbors in Sugarmill Woods to come with you to the meeting, especially if you are considering replacing your lawn, have questions about the irrigation restrictions, and to get helpful tips on proper care of your lawn and other plantings. We hope to see many of you there.

The Sugarmill Woods Civic Association is sponsoring this meeting as part of the Community Outreach Program.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker
President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

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