

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

August 5, 2011

Dear Residents,

Citrus County Water Resources Department is continuing to work to improve our Public Water Distribution System here in Sugarmill Woods. Our central water and sewer systems were established in the late 1970s in conjunction with the first development phase in Cypress Village. Over the years it was expanded into what we have in place today which includes nine active wells, three Water Treatment Plants, and a Waste Water Treatment Plant that serves a community of more than 10,000 residents and many businesses in this immediate area.

While many improvements and changes have occurred (more in recent years since Citrus County Water Resources took over ownership and management), the fact is the system is aging and continues to need ongoing maintenance. Most of the major areas of concern have been addressed and continue to be addressed. One area that is still a significant problem for the County and us as residents is

Unaccounted for Water Losses.

If you recall, the County agreed to a number of actions within the last two years which would improve the water distribution system, stabilize water pressures, and improve the overall system. Some of the many actions already taken include recalibrating all of the central well water pumpage meters, replacing damaged / faulty check valves in all well pumps, replacing faulty residential meters, construction of a new 500,000 gallon water storage tank (3rd one), installation of and upgrading emergency generators for back up purposes, retrofitting five wells at SMW Water Treatment Plant # 2 by replacing older 50 HP motors with more efficient 20 HP pump motors, installing a new control system for wells, storage tanks, and distribution pumps, installation of a special meter in the connection line to Chassahowitzka as the first of several actions to partition the system to check for potential leakage problems, etc.

These changes have resulted in operational cost savings and some small reductions in Unaccounted for Water Losses. It is progress but we are far from resolving the problem. Citrus County Water Resources will be embarking on the next phase of analysis to find and resolve the issues associated with our "Unaccounted For Water Losses". This activity will specifically deal with teams of individuals and using some new equipment to probe all areas of the Distribution System to locate leakage. Attached below is a News Release from Citrus County Water Resources which describes the activity here in Sugarmill Woods over the next four to five weeks.

Press Release

***Received from Bernadine Flood-Nichols,
Citrus County Utilities, Customer Service Manager***

Water Leak Detection Sleuths in the Area

Throughout the Sugarmill Woods community, in the next four to five weeks, you may notice numerous individuals with electronic listening devices and steel probes in the neighborhood. The individuals include a team of experts from Citrus County Utilities, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and the Florida Rural Water Association. This powerful team will be using state-of-the-art equipment to locate hidden leaks in the water system, including valves, connections, main lines, and wells.

The water system serving Sugarmill Woods has shown signs of aging in the past several years according to Water Resources Director, Robert Knight. He states that "We have been successful in recent months in finding and fixing a number of leaks that have

accounted for over two million gallons a month of lost water. We are committed to getting the water losses down as low as possible and only a full canvassing of the entire system will give us that assurance."

The results of this effort when it is completed will be posted to the County's website at http://www.bocc.citrus.fl.us/waterres/water_resources.htm. Knight notes that discovered leaks need to be repaired, which may require some lines to be taken out of service temporarily to fix the issue. Affected customers will be notified before this occurs.

***Bernadine Flood-Nichols**, Customer Service Manager for Citrus County Utilities can be reached at **(352) 527-7648** if there are any questions on this program. She also advises the residents to be aware that "All persons working on this team should be able to readily provide identification badges. All team members will be wearing uniforms that identify the organization for which they work. There is no need for anyone from the team to enter any of our customers' homes or businesses during this process. However, due to the fact that water lines go down the fronts and sides of yards near the streets, the team will be around virtually each property during the coming weeks."*

Please be aware of this activity in your neighborhood. The **Unaccounted For Water Loss** problems have been affecting our community for a long time. The source of these problems needs to be identified and appropriate corrective actions must be implemented. Your support and understanding of this work activity by the Citrus County Water Resources Department will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker,
President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

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