

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

October 8, 2011

Dear Residents,

Enclosed is the 3Q 2011 summary of the Crime Report for the Sugarmill Woods Community area. If you recall we saw a significant increase in Burglaries, Theft / Larceny, and Vehicle Break Ins / Theft in 2Q 2011 (24 in total). Thanks to the Citrus County Sheriff's Office immediate response and their thorough investigation, the suspected individuals responsible for those crimes were quickly apprehended.

The net result was a significant decrease in those same crimes for 3Q 2011. The number of Burglaries, Theft / Larceny, and Vehicle Break Ins / Theft decreased from 24 down to 7. The total number of reported crimes for 3Q 2011 vs. 2Q 2011 decreased 60% (27 down to 11). This is the lowest number we have seen since we started tracking the numbers in 2Q 2010. Thank you for taking immediate action to report these crimes when they occur.

We encourage all residents to be aware of suspicious activity in our community and report it to the proper authorities immediately. Only then can we keep our community safe for our families, our neighbors, and everyone that lives here.

For your convenience, I have summarized below the reported crimes in the Sugarmill Woods community area for the last five quarters.

SUGARMILL WOODS CRIME REPORT SUMMARY

| Category | 3Q / 2010 | 4Q / 2010 | 1Q / 2011 | 2Q / 2011 | 3Q / 2011 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Assault | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Burglary | 5 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 2 |
| Drugs / Alcohol Violations | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Fraud | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Sex Crimes | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Theft / Larceny | 9 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| Vandalism | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Vehicle Break In / Theft | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Total | 22 | 20 | 17 | 27 | 11 |

For those of you interested in the details of crime activity in our community and all of Citrus County, there is a link on the Citrus County Sheriff's Office web site which describes a tracking system that has been in existence since early 2009.

It is called **Crime Mapping On Line**. The interactive crime mapping application is accessible through the Sheriff's Office web site and allows you to view recent reported criminal activity within Citrus County. The operative word here is "reported". If you don't report the crime, the Sheriff cannot do anything about it. Please report all criminal activity and suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office. You can search the online system by address to zero in on your neighborhood and also see a listing of reported criminal activity for the last three months. The direct link is

www.crimemapping.com/map/fl/citruscounty.

Since 2009, the Citrus County Sheriff's Office has also been offering a **"Free" Crime Prevention Survey** to homeowners throughout Citrus County. Feedback from residents that have participated in these surveys has been very positive. Here is a brief summary of what the program is all about. I strongly recommend that you at least consider it.

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. The person reviews landscaping and shrubs around your home where intruders could hide and outside lighting which could help to deter intruders, checks doors and windows, locks, etc. and alarm systems. The person talks about Identity Theft and gives suggestions where and where not to hide things in your home. 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 in this "free survey", please contact **Sgt. Chris Evan at (352) 527-3701** or send an email to cevan@sheriffcitrus.org or crimeprevention@sheriffcitrus.org.

In 3Q 2011, **64% of the reported crimes** (7 of 11) were **Burglary, Theft / Larceny, and Vehicle Break In / Theft**. The Sheriff's Office emphasizes a slogan they have coined **"Lock It or Lose It"**. Did you know the simple act of locking your car doors – something that takes less than 3 seconds – can prevent crime? According to the Sheriff's Office the number one crime we have in our otherwise safe community is burglary – incidents in which items are stolen from unlocked cars, open garages, unsecured homes and yards or other places in plain sight. As citizens of Citrus County, we can all partner with the Sheriff's Office to reduce crime and reduce our risk of becoming a victim.

Lock Up. Lock your car doors and keep them locked at all times – even when your car is sitting in the driveway. Lock your home and keep your garage doors shut.

Secure it. Hide items left in your car – or better yet, keep those items in your trunk. Don't leave valuables, such as bikes or golf clubs, in plain view. Keep household valuables in a safe place.

Be a good neighbor. Watch out for others and share these simple steps with them. Let your neighbors know if they have left something valuable outside or if they have accidentally left their garage door open. If you see suspicious behavior in the neighborhood, please report it.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call the Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency line at (352) 726-1121 and ask for Crime Prevention. They are eager to help you.

Last but not least, the **Sugarmill Woods Crime Watch** team which is a volunteer organization established by the Citrus County Sheriff's Office provides a **"Free" Home Security Check** for residents who make a prearranged vacation watch request. If you would like to take advantage of this service, residents can now go to the Sheriff's Office official web site at www.sheriffcitrus.org, click on **"Crime Prevention"**, and then **"Vacation Watch Request"** to sign up. Residents can fill out the one page form on line and submit it electronically.

If you prefer, you may call the Citrus County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency line at (352) 726-1121 to request this service as well. Please tell the Sheriff's Office representative that you are a resident of Sugarmill Woods and would like to have security checks made of your home by Sugarmill Woods Crime Watch during your absence. You will be asked a series of questions, such as, who has a key to your house? Will there be a car parked in the driveway and other pertinent information so that the Crime Watch officer will know what to expect when checking your house.

A form containing all this information is then sent to Sugarmill Woods Crime Watch and is placed in the daily security check log maintained by the organization. Any discrepancy encountered by a Crime Watch officer on patrol while performing a house check is immediately called in on the car radio and a Deputy Sheriff is dispatched to investigate. It takes about two weeks from the time you place that call until the final information is received by the SMW Crime Watch unit. So please plan ahead. Call the Sheriff's Office at least two weeks prior to your departure to ensure complete coverage during your absence.

Upon your return, please notify the Sheriff's Office to let them know you have returned and they can cancel security checks of your home. A house check is a courtesy of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. Every effort will be made to check your home. SMW Crime Watch in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office will report any unusual findings or crime. It does not preclude you from being a victim of crime and does not guarantee the safety of your home.

I hope this information is helpful. Please share it with your friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker, President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

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