

## MARKHAM WOODS ASSOCIATION

### RESIDENT ALERT

#### **Your Help Is Still Needed In The Septic System Fight !!!**

The Septic System fight still rages. Certain interests in Tallahassee still want you to spend up to \$30,000 on a new septic system in the name of a clean Wekiva River. We all are for a clean Wekiva River. Yet **many scientists and engineers say our septic systems do not harm the River**, and the State Department of Health (DOH) admits it cannot prove otherwise. The DOH's conclusions about septic pollution are based on inference, not evidence.

We homeowners fought and won this battle last year against the State's proposed rule that would have forced those of us with traditional septic tank systems to change to expensive, complex, and unproven new systems. To all of you who responded to this issue and voiced your concerns to our Florida legislators.

**THANK YOU** for your support! Our legislators heard your voice and responded.

**But the fight is not over!** There is currently a renewed movement in the Florida House and Senate that would once again propose potentially unfair, expensive legislation against us, and this legislation could go into effect as early as July 1, 2010. **If we can stop this legislative movement during this Spring session in Tallahassee, we have reason to believe that we will have put this issue finally to rest and have won this septic war!**

**Your Markham Woods Association (MWA) Board of Directors strongly encourages you to PLEASE CONTRIBUTE as much as you can to this "Septic Fight" with a voluntary contribution of \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, or any amount to The Markham Woods Association, Inc. Please send a contribution now to Markham Woods Association, Inc., P.O. Box 529184, Longwood, FL 32752-0184.** The MWA has retained the legal services of Fowler, O'Quinn, Feeney & Sneed P.A. to protect your interests on this issue. Last year, MWA spent approximately \$16,000 in this fight along with the many countless voluntary hours on the part of their Board Officers.

The MWA also enlisted the support of Seminole County Commissioner, Brenda Carey. She convinced the County's Board of Commissioners to pass a Resolution to oppose the proposed new septic rules. The MWA also sparked your State House Representative Scott Plakon's active support. In addition, Rep.'s Plakon, Nelson and Dorworth helped block the rules in Tallahassee last year and have pledged to continue their opposition.

The MWA also joined forces with the Florida Realtors Association and the Florida Home Builders Association in coordinating opposition. Plus the MWA helped form a coalition of Homeowner Associations in Seminole and Orange County called the Wekiva Study Area Homeowners Coalition (see the [www.thesludgereport.org](http://www.thesludgereport.org)). The MWA also coordinated closely with Commissioner Fred Brummer in Orange County who is opposed to any unreasonable new septic legislation, He got Orange County's Board of Commissioners to pass a Resolution against the new rules. The MWA's President, Jack Hannahs, and Vice-President, John Higgins went to Tallahassee last year to voice criticism of the proposed rules and are planning another such trip shortly. And MWA's Secretary, Ken Jones, has spoken at many County and State sponsored meetings against the proposed legislation. Messrs. Hannahs, Higgins, and Jones met recently with State Senator Lee Constantine who is authoring the 2010 septic legislation to argue for reasonableness and fairness on the issue.

The MWA's efforts in this battle are intense and widespread. They will continue to fight for you. But they will incur more legal costs on your behalf before this controversy is resolved. The law firm they have retained is necessary and important. Rep. Scott Plakon said the law firm was critical to our success last year. MWA desperately needs your financial help to continue to pay for this legal advice. We cannot afford to lose on this issue lest we all face replacing our existing septic tank systems with new ones costing as much as \$30,000. Your contribution to MWA, no matter how large or small, is urgently needed. It is a prudent investment on your part. **Please act now! Thank you.**

More information on the septic issue can be obtained at

**[www.MarkhamWoodsAssociation.org](http://www.MarkhamWoodsAssociation.org)**