

SpringLake BREEZE

Florida... the way it should be!



Board Requesting Charter Update

When the Spring Lake Improvement District was created by a Special Act of the State Legislature in 1971, it received a Charter to oversee the operations and management of the District. The Board of Supervisors is currently requesting legislation to modify its current Charter for the purpose of updating and streamlining the District's governing document. The present Charter is, for the most part, unchanged from the original Charter from almost 40 years ago.

The proposed legislation addresses shortcomings in the present Charter and will allow the District to better fulfill the current and future needs of the community. It updates the provisions of the District Charter to recognize popularly elected seats to the Board; adds language consistent with other Florida Districts to conduct mosquito control activities, fire control, and emergency medical service activities within County rules; provide infrastructure for educational facilities; provide for the enforcement of deed restrictions for defunct homeowner's associations; and have language that is consistent with Chapter 298 of the Florida Statutes which Spring Lake operates under.

The proposed Charter is NOT a power grab, as several residents have insinuated in our local newspapers. Instead, it will provide the District with the necessary authority to act in the best interest of the community. At the appropriate time as our community develops and grows, reasonable citizens may wish to take measures to provide for public safety, education, and an improved community appearance. These revisions will provide the authority to address those future endeavors in cooperation with those existing County agencies responsible for these areas such as the Sheriffs Department, Emergency Services, and the School Board.

Visit The District Website

While several sections of the new website are still a work in progress, residents can now visit our new site at www.springlakefl.com for a wealth of information. You can join our e-mail list by registering on the home page, and confirmation e-mail will be sent to you for verification. We hope to begin sharing data and news by April.

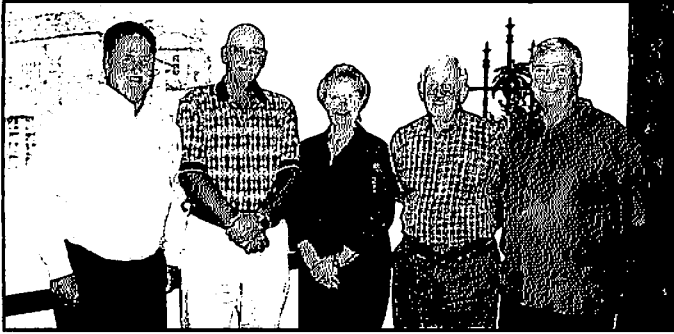


Scroll thru the ABOUT section of the site and you can read biographies about our Supervisors; see numerous historical pictures of Spring Lake from as far back as 1970; read historical articles about the development of Spring Lake; and in the documents area you can read all the minutes and financial reports from the very first meeting in 1971.

The SERVICES section describes drainage, mowing, parks, water, mosquito control, streetlights, projects, and the community center. All of the information in these areas will change periodically as updated news is generated.

As our country continues to "go green" the District intends on using this website to enable you to access information and remain updated on all aspects of District.

WHO'S WHO?



Board of Supervisors

Ken Poe, Leon Van, Marsi Benson, Bill Lawens & Brian Acker

The Improvement District is managed by a Board of Supervisors, a full-time staff, and contracted advisors. Here are the people in charge of the District.

Board of Supervisors

Leon Van..... Chairman
Bill Lawens Vice Chairman
Marsi Benson Secretary
Brian Acker
Ken Poe

District Staff

Joe DeCerbo District Manager
Diane Angell District Administrator
Clay Shrum..... Water Superintendent
 & Director of Operations
Randy Nelson Field Foreman
Gladys Eaglen Utilities Administrative
 Assistant

Field Staff

JR Clarke
James Hicks
Robert Hicks
Corey Jones
John Laiosa
Bill Maine
Brian Patrick

District Advisors

William Nielander... Attorney
Bruce Stratton Auditor
Gene Schriner..... Engineering
Craig Wrathell..... Management

Water Department

The Spring Lake Improvement District owns and operates the water distribution system for our community. An Enterprise Fund, the water plant has provided quality water to our residents for many years, and is a valuable utility for Spring Lake.

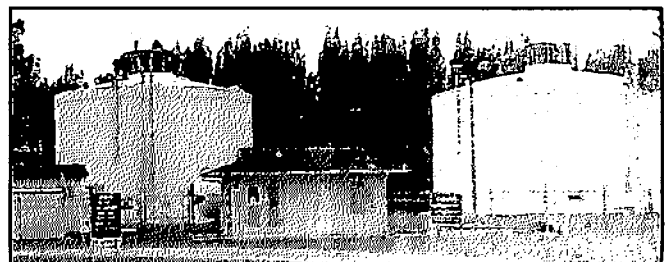
In 1971 the first water plant was constructed and had 85,000 gallons in above ground storage, and a design flow of 150,000 gallons per day. Water mains and lines were first installed in Village I and installations continued as the other Villages developed. In 1983, a new water plant was designed that had above ground storage of 250,000 gallons and a flow of 500,000 gallons per day. Today, Spring Lake has a design flow of nearly one million gallons per day.

Unlike many Florida communities, quality water will continue to be available at a reasonable cost; our rates and fees are some of the lowest in the State. Plans are currently underway to reinforce infrastructure, some of which is more than 30 years old, as well as basic upgrades and improvements to the plant itself.

Water plant facilities and maintenance areas are located on Tizzwood, and the District Office on Spring Lake Blvd. handles all transactions for the department. The current base rate for water, as set by the Board of Supervisors, is \$13.35 per month. Per 1,000 gallon rate levels are as follows:

0 to 5,999	\$3.10 per 1,000 gallons
6,000 to 14,999	\$3.32 per 1,000 gallons
15,000 to 39,999	\$3.52 per 1,000 gallons
40,000 and over	\$3.99 per 1,000 gallons

A complete listing of all water rates, fees, policies and procedures, are available at the District Office.



Automatic Utility Payments

The Spring Lake Improvement District Water Department offers you the opportunity to pay your water bill on time without buying a stamp, writing a check, or driving to the office to make your payment. Automatic Utility Payments debit your checking account on the 5th or 12th of each month, depending on your billing cycle. Simply stop by the District Office, pick up a form, and join over 400 other residents using this convenience.

Services and Programs

WEB SITE

For a comprehensive overview of services and programs go to www.springlakefl.com

THE BREEZE

A newsletter that is published by the District and mailed to every resident who pays a water bill; lot owners out of town by request; and local businesses. This informative paper shares pertinent District news thru a variety of articles and pictures.

ACH

Automatic payment program for water bills. Each month your water bill is deducted from your checking account. Forms are available at the District Office.

SIGNS

The District has an inter local agreement with the County to maintain medians and right-of-ways. No signs may be placed on any medians or County right of ways. This pertains to garage sales, for sale, announcements, etc. All signs will be removed, and the County may levy fines.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING

This service is governed by State Law and is offered to residents by request only; the District is not allowed to have a regular schedule. Certified and trained staff are employed to oversee this program, and request for service can usually be met within 24 hours, if winds are not a factor in spraying.

AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL

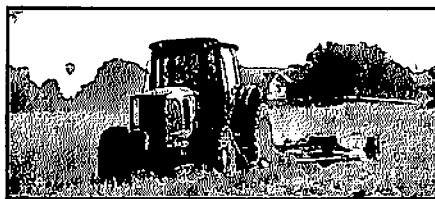
This service is also governed by State Law and pertains to the canals. Several different chemicals are used to control hydrilla, water lettuce, and other vegetation.

DRAINAGE

The District maintains all of the canals throughout the community, as well as easements and right of ways. Maintenance and operation of the pump station is a major part of this program.

PERMITS

The District Engineer must approve any work that affects drainage, easements, right of ways, sea walls, and new developments prior to the County approval process. This is particularly true of any and all drainage areas.



LOT MOWING

The District ensures that all vacant lots are mowed. The District also mows all County Right of Ways and Medians. The County Tax Collector levies all taxes for this service.

PARKS

Pine Breeze Park is located adjacent to the tennis courts and contains a full service playground for children up to 12 years of age, as well as a full basketball court. Picnic tables, grilles, and horseshoes are also available. The Village I Park is located on Thunder Road, just west of Lakeview. There are benches around the pond; picnic tables and grilles; playground equipment; and shuffleboard courts. Russ Ankrom Park is located in Village II and is situated next to one of the canals.

RECYCLE BINS

Located adjacent to the tennis courts, residents are urged to bring newspapers, plastic, and aluminum cans. This service is conducted in cooperation with the County program, and they maintain the bins.

TENNIS COURTS

Located adjacent to the District Office the courts are restricted to use by our residents. A key for the locked entrance can be secured at the Office.



ARBUCKLE CREEK PARK

Beautifully situated at the mouth of the Creek and Lake Istokpoga, this park is available to Spring Lake residents only. The gated entrance to the park is just off Rt. 98, 100 yards past the fish camp. Residents must secure a code for access gate from the District Office.

GAZEBO

Located in front of the tennis courts and visible from Spring Lake Blvd. The inside of the Gazebo contains a lending closet with numerous pieces of equipment and furniture for your use; contact the Property Association, at (863) 655-2230 for details.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Located in Pine Breeze Park, adjacent to the tennis courts, the Center is restricted to use by our residents. Reservations for use can be made at the District Office. The Center has a capacity of 97 people and a kitchen with refrigerator and microwave offers limited food service.

DRIVE THRU WINDOW

Residents wishing to pay their water bills in person or secure information without coming into the Office may use the convenient drive thru on the north side of the building. There is also a mail drop located just to the left of the main entrance door.

SPRING LAKE

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

115 Spring Lake Blvd.
Sebring, FL 33876
863.655.1715 phone
863.655.4430 fax

District Working With FEMA On Levee Certification

For the past 18 months Spring Lake has been revising and updating the process for inspecting and maintaining the levee and pump station. In late January the District filed an extensive report with FEMA and applied for a "provisionally accepted levee" status until February of 2012; at which time our Engineers will have conducted all the necessary tests to ensure stability and safety of the nearly three mile levee in Spring Lake.

This unfunded mandate from the Federal Government is a requirement of the new Flood Map process currently under way throughout the State of Florida. Failure to comply with FEMA regulations regarding the levee would result in the new Flood Maps showing Spring Lake as a flood zone, and insurance rates would skyrocket! The Board of Supervisors approved the plan that was developed by FEMA and our District staff, and work progresses each week. New forms and inspection processes have been developed for the levee and pump station; a control center has been established on pump station grounds, and a dedicated vehicle is used for inspection and maintenance. Additionally, the job description for "canal maintenance" now includes responsibilities for both the levee and pump station.

There will be a series of public meetings conducted by Highlands County as the mapping process continues. The new maps are scheduled to be available in 2012 and the District has positioned itself to meet all the necessary requirements to avoid being listed as a flood zone. For more information on this program you can go to the FEMA web site and search the flood mapping section at www.fema.gov.

What is SLID?

Over the years, most people have simply referred to the Spring Lake Improvement District as SLID. Created by a Special Act of the State Legislature in 1971, it is a unit of government similar to a municipality. The exception is that the District does not have authority over Land Use, Zoning, Development Codes, Police, or Fire. Throughout Florida, Special Districts were established to promote development. Coral Ridge Properties, which was a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric, took the leadership role in the development of Spring Lake.

Throughout the 70's, Spring Lake grew and developed. On July 26, 1980 the Spring Lake Golf Course marked its grand opening. That same year the Community Center remodeling was completed, and has remained in its current location since that time. In addition to Pine Breeze Park, where the Community Center is located, the District also maintains a park in Village I; Lakeside Park; Russ Ankrom Park; and both a park and boat ramp at Arbuckle Creek.

The District is responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Water Management System for drainage and flood control. All permitting comes from South Florida Water Management District. It is also responsible for the supply of potable water, mosquito control, street lighting, lot mowing, and the operation and maintenance of recreational facilities. Spring Lake was originally designed to have gravity flow drainage through water control structures that go west to east, to the Pump Station. The system drains approximately 3,324 acres; 200 acres of canal surface; and 17.1 miles of canal network. There are five Commissioners who are elected by the voters. Three are elected by the landowners (one vote for each lot) and two are elected by popular vote. They meet the second Wednesday of each month, at 3:00 p.m. in the District Offices.

