

Spring Lake BREEZE

Florida... the way it should be!



Budget Process Begins



Beginning with the FY 2006 budget process a set of optimum financial goals, and a timetable, have been followed to assist the Board of Supervisors with the development of a yearly budget for the District.

Financial Goals include:

- The District will have a budget reflective of a sound staffing pattern, a progressive salary administration program, and organizational goals and objectives to determine expenditures.
- The District will maintain adequate reserves to protect it against unforeseen circumstances and situations.
- The District will have sound financial management and reporting including investments, controls, adequate insurance coverage, and utilization of appropriate external counsel and assistance as needed.
- The District will have a budget process that involves the Board, management staff, working groups, and public input.
- The District will develop a budget process timetable and chart of work for each fiscal year

Fiscal Year Projected Timetable:

April – June	Manager, Administrator, and working groups gather financial data
May	Finance working group develops projected budget
June	First draft of budget projection presented to Board
July	Second draft of budget projection presented to Board
August	Public Hearing
September	Budget approved by Board and assessments sent to Tax Collector

The development of the District Budget is an open process that is thoroughly discussed and reviewed at the monthly Board meetings, held the second Wednesday of each month at the District Offices, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Additional information can be secured and discussed by contacting the District Office at 655-1715 and making an appointment.

Congressman Rooney



Spring Lake Board of Supervisors Chairman Leon A. Van, Jr. (right) met with Congressman Tom Rooney on April 5th to discuss the Districts water control plan. District Manager Joe DeCerber presented Rooney with the various water control projects that needed to be funded, and the Congressman pledged his support to the community. He directed his staff aide to work with the District in preparing materials for future legislative earmarks that could come about. Mike Willingham, Sebring Airport Authority Executive Director, also attended the meeting to support the initiatives of the District relative to the water control plan.

District Services Begin

One of the main responsibilities of the Spring Lake Improvement District is ensuring that the 1,295 vacant lots and 70 acres are mowed.



Additionally, the District mows all County Right of Ways and Medians. There are three tractors dedicated to lot mowing, and there is additional equipment for all entranceway medians, Duane Palmer Blvd., and the parks.

For those of us who reside in the community year long it is no surprise to see grass and weeds grow so quickly; some lots even grow faster than others depending on the type of soil it has. While our staff tries to keep up as best they can, heavy rains can prevent the tractors from going on the properties and sets our mowing schedule back. The action plan that is used for this program has lots that are near homes as a mowing priority, and the large acreage of lands, such as off of Rt. 98, as the secondary priority. This process allows neighborhoods that may have only a few vacant lots to not have an eyesore when grass and weeds get too high.

During this lot-mowing season if you notice a particular problem you can contact the District Office to report it. We can more often than not let you know when a certain area is going to be mowed and ensure that the problem is taken care of.



Another program about ready to begin is the annual mosquito control effort. While the District maintains the equipment and chemicals to fight mosquitoes, there are State Laws that govern

the frequency of spraying. The District is NOT allowed to have a regular schedule for spraying and can only be initiated by resident complaints. Certified and trained staff is employed to oversee this program, and requests for service can be met within 24 hours, unless winds or rain are prevalent. Residents can help with mosquito control by making sure they break up any small pockets of water that might be at the end of their driveway, in the right of ways, near culverts, or are collecting elsewhere. This is a major battle every year and while the spraying does not prevent mosquitoes, it certainly helps with controlling them. Spring Lake is fortunate to have this service, as it is not provided anywhere else in the County.

Easements

Nearly every property in Spring Lake has some type of an easement associated with it and everyone benefits by the easements established in development plans. Board Supervisor Brian Acker has spent a considerable amount of time researching, organizing, and drafting policies and procedures; he prepared the following information.

"What is an easement? An easement is a right, as a right of way, afforded to a person or an entity to make limited use of another's real property. In other words, an easement gives the legal right of another to use a dedicated portion of your property. Utility and drainage easements are primarily the type of easement found in Spring Lake however planting easements, landscape easements, and buffers, among others, have been identified in studies I conducted.

Easements are necessary to economically provide and maintain water service, electrical service, communication services, and drainage throughout Spring Lake. Imagine the consequences of a developed residential and commercial area without easements. At best, large portions of Spring Lake would be uninhabitable due to flooding. Electric utilities would be unable to provide power. The current potable water utility would not exist. Simple maintenance tasks such as weed control in our canals and drainage areas would be far more difficult and expensive if they were to be accomplished by boat rather than by a single employee utilizing an easement.

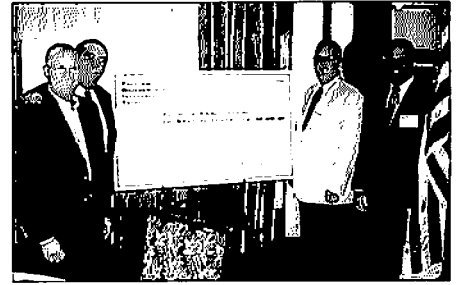
An easement is designated to provide access to install or maintain necessary infrastructure and as such should remain clear of structures or plantings that would otherwise prevent or limit its use. Everyone in Spring Lake shares maintenance costs and those costs can significantly increase if a legally designated easement cannot be utilized.

Both SLID and Highlands County has statutory responsibility regarding easements under Florida law. An easement study that was conducted identified potential problems, and policies were established relative to easements and coordinating our actions with the County, South Florida Water Management, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

A landowner may be compelled to remove a structure or plantings that are within an easement. So, like the sign reads, "Call Before You Dig!" Please contact the District Office before planting or erecting a structure if you have any question whether an easement is associated with your property."

District Recieves Scholarship

Spring Lake is a member of the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD), an organization that supports and enhances member Districts. The Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust (PGIT) is a partner with FASD and provides scholarships for the Certified District Managers Program that is conducted under the auspices of Florida State University, Reuben Askew School of Public Administration and Policy.



Since its inception, only 35 people have successfully completed the Certified District Manager Program. Current Spring Lake Manager Joe DeCerbo received his certification in April 2008. Subjects covered in the program include: contract management and procurement; project management; intergovernmental affairs; public information; public relations; strategic planning; budgeting; board relations; ethics and sunshine laws; and collective bargaining.

Spring Lake Water Superintendent/Director of Operations Clay Shrum (pictured second from the right) is shown receiving his \$1,200 scholarship from PGIT to attend the first phase of the program that was conducted in Tallahassee in early March. Additional course work is required prior to Clay receiving his certification.

"Along with providing insurance coverage for Florida's public entities, PGIT is dedicated to educating its members, agents, and risk managers," said Kurt Heyman, Vice-President of Marketing for PGIT. "We support the FASD CDM Program because it ensures Florida's Special District Managers are properly prepared to serve the residents of their District."

Aquatic Spraying



District employee John Laiosa (standing) has assumed the canal maintenance position and will oversee all spraying of aquatic weeds in District waterways. He will also be responsible for the operation of the pump station and the inspection and maintenance of

the levee. He is joined in this picture by Robert Hicks. Aquatic spraying is affected by rain and wind and adverse conditions can cause large build-ups of weeds.

Fish & Wildlife Meeting

The Lakeside Estates Homeowners Association hosted a meeting on March 26th with Erica Van Horn (standing), the Regional Biologist from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The meeting was attended by District Water Superintendent/Operations Director Clay Shrum to learn how Spring Lake could explore other options in controlling aquatic weeds and vegetation. Residents can secure aquatic plant management permitting free of charge by going to www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/invaspec/index.htm



St. Patrick's Day Party



Spring Lake resident Tim McKenna sponsored his fourth annual St. Pat's Day appreciation party for District staff. Pictured left to right are Board Chairman Leon A. Van, Jr.; Tim; staff "leprechaun" Bill Maine; and Board Supervisor Bill Lawens

District Staff Training



All District Staff recently went thru an updated training session on CPR and First Aid for adults. Dave Brown, from Zee Medical Services, was the instructor.

Canal Drainage

District staff continually works to keep canals draining properly. They are seen here doing work in Village VIII, cleaning out a drainage easement that leads into Lake Isktopoga.



Board of Supervisors

Spring Lake Improvement District Board of Supervisors pictured left: Jim Foote; Bill Lawens; Marsi Benson; Brian Acker & Leon Van.



SPRING LAKE

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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Jim Foote Appointed to Board



Spring Lake resident Jim Foote was appointed to a landowner vacancy on the Board of Supervisors as a result of the resignation of Ken Poe. The notice of a Supervisor vacancy was published in the local paper, included on the District website, and noted on last month's water bill. This appointed term of office expires at the Landowners meeting the second Wednesday of November 2011. We sincerely appreciate Jim's willingness to serve the community and be a part of the vision and future of our District.

Jim is a retired accounting professional with experience in corporate accounting, financial analysis, internal auditing, and lease accounting. He had worked in both wholesale distribution and manufacturing companies for over 30 years. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Memphis State University in Tennessee, and a Master of Accounting from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale. He is a certified Florida Public Accountant.

He has been attending monthly Board meetings for several years and has a good understanding of the future challenges that face our community. He is actively involved in his local homeowners association and frequently gives his time and talents to others. He is going to be a valuable resource for Spring Lake.

Fountains In Waterways

Were you aware that fountains could be installed in canals and other water bodies? Several years ago the Board of Supervisors approved criteria for the permitting of fountains. It was recognized that fountains could improve the aesthetics of a property, as well as helping to move water and prevent unwanted plants and weeds from growing. All costs for installation and maintenance of the fountain itself are borne by the resident. There is no cost for the permit, and applications are available at the District Office. Here are the criteria established by the Board:



- No electric pumps or power lines are allowed in the water body
- Fountain draw and return pipes will have a minimum of 24" of cover on a District Right of Way
- Pump and all exposed piping will be on the owner's property
- Owner shall have adjacent landowners sign a consent form, as well as landowners directly across from the fountain location
- Fountain shall NOT be operated from 9 p.m. thru 7 a.m. daily
- No lighting fixtures are allowed
- The maximum height of the water column shall not exceed 10 ft.
- Fountain water column or spray shall not be allowed to act so as to inconvenience neighbors, erode canal banks, or disturb District Right of Ways
- Fountain and associated piping will be installed so as to allow clear passage for the emergency/maintenance boat
- SLID shall have the right to terminate the operation of, and/or removal of the fountain due to any improprieties, or other circumstances, at the owners cost
- SLID reserves the right to relocate or terminate the operation of the fountain for routing canal maintenance at the owners cost
- Fountain must be at least 25 ft. from adjacent property lines