

# SpringLake BREEZE

*Florida... the way it should be!*



## **Chairman's Message** *Brian Acker*



*Pictured left to right are: Secretary, Tim McKenna; Chairman, Brian Acker; Arlene Klingbiel; Past Chairman, Bill Lawens; and Gary Behrendt, Vice-Chairman.*

The Board of Supervisors for the Spring Lake Improvement District is a collegial body that derives its authority through the District Charter, which is a part of the Laws of Florida. The Board is responsible for policy and oversight of District operations. One of the most important functions is development and oversight of the District budget, which forms the basis for the District tax assessment.

The Board of Supervisors is a public body which is required to follow Florida Sunshine Laws. The Sunshine Laws require public access to District documents with few exceptions and the conducting of District business in public, through advertised meetings. Supervisors are prohibited from discussing among themselves issues that may come before the Board except at a properly noticed meeting that is open to the public. Supervisors are free to discuss issues with constituents and District staff.

The Board of Supervisors is comprised of five members who are all landowners. Three of the supervisors are elected for three year terms through a District managed landowner election, held annually in November for the seat whose term ends that year. The remaining two supervisors serve four year terms and are elected by the district residents who are registered voters. These seats are commonly referred to as, "popularly elected seats." Those seeking these seats must qualify with the Highlands County Supervisor of Elections to be placed on the November ballot. The qualifying period for the 2014 Elections is between June 16 and 20th with qualifying paperwork being accepted beginning June 2nd at the office of the Highlands County Supervisor of Elections.

It has been my experience over the past seven years that each supervisor has been, or is, dedicated to making Spring Lake a great community. I encourage everyone to attend our public announced meetings and share their thoughts, suggestions and concerns.

# Congressional Inquiry Supports Spring Lake

In the last issue of The Breeze you read about the insensitive and bureaucratic tactics the State Engineer from USDA was using to hold our community hostage in trying to secure a 40 year loan from USDA. After numerous local government and agency individuals rose to support our 15 month battle, as well as a number of residents, we finally had success.

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson and U.S. Congressman Tom Rooney authorized a Congressional Inquiry into our situation and supported our position wholeheartedly. Their staffs were in frequent contact with our District, updating us on the progress they were making. Finally, on January 27, 2014, the State Director of USDA informed both Nelson and Rooney via letter that Spring Lake would be able to move forward with the USDA process. While this was a welcome decision, the irony is that the position they took is the same position we had pointed out to them 15 months ago!!! In between those months a lot of time and money was spent trying to convince this engineer to alter his position. Another example of a system out of control that impacts all of us.

The District Board of Supervisors sincerely appreciates the effort put forth by Senator Nelson and Congressman Rooney, as well as the very active support and intervention by the Audubon Society.

## 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 10:00 a.m. Additional information can be secured and discussed by contacting the District Office at 655-1715 and making an appointment.

# Neighborhood Watch Contacts

All residents, regardless of what Village you live in, are impacted by the efforts of the Spring Lake Property Association and their Neighborhood Watch volunteers.

The organization is under the guidance of Highlands County Sheriff representative Nell Hayes. If you are interested in helping this group, you may contact the Captain in your area.

### List of Captain's

Bernice Lynch - Village 1  
863-655-2558

Diane Casares - Village 2  
863-655-2157

Paul Paton - Village 3 & 4  
863-655-1112

Wayne Cochran - Village 5  
863-655-3766

Don Brewer - Village 6 S  
863-655-2041

Charlie Kerr - Village 6 N  
863-655-4340

William Kestner - Village 7 & 8  
863-414-8827

Pat David - Village 7  
863-655-1363

Carole Frederick  
863-655-4909  
WWV

Joe Troia  
863-655-2562  
CCV

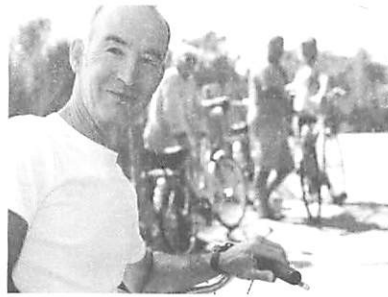
Mike Smith  
Chairman  
863-655-2525

Mary Kestner  
Co – Chairman  
863-414-8827

# Walkers & Bikers

Submitted By: Arlene Klingbiel

Now that everyone is back, I'd like to remind drivers to share the road with pedestrians and bikers and to remind pedestrians to walk against traffic and bikers ride with traffic. It is a State Law.



Vehicle traffic needs to be courteous of pedestrians and bikers. That means move over when you see a biker or pedestrian. By now I am sure you noticed the white painted line along the edge of Duane Palmer. Please don't think this is enough room for anyone in that area. Keep in mind that the space between the side of the road and white line is about 40 inches. Bike handlebars are about 25 inches. That doesn't leave much room for a biker when a vehicle is hugging that white line.

Remember the speed limit on Duane Palmer is 35 mph not 40 or more. Note that the backside of Duane Palmer is not a race track and that there are many pedestrians and bikers who use that piece of the road. All other residential streets in Spring Lake are 25mph unless posted. Many of us have had close calls due to people in vehicles being distracted or just won't move over. So please slow down when you see someone walking or biking. Drivers need to remember to use turn signals when turning. This helps everyone know what to expect and avoid potential accidents. Remember if there is a pedestrian or biker in the crosswalk, they have the right-of-way. Everyone can be safe by sharing the road. SLOW DOWN.

# A History of Service

Since the Spring Lake Improvement District had their first Board of Supervisors meetings in 1971 there have been 28 individuals who gave their time and talents to the District, serving as a member of the Board. From 1971 to 1998 the Board consisted of three Supervisors, all elected by landowner vote (one unit/one vote). Beginning in 1998, when the density of Spring Lake rose above 25%, two additional Supervisors were to be elected by popular vote. Today's Board is made up of 3 landowner positions (three year terms) and 2 popular positions (four year terms). There is one landowner position voted on annually at the November Board meeting and for each unit a resident owns (house or lots) they get one vote. If someone owns 8 lots they may cast 8 votes. The popular seats are elected every four years thru an election supervised by the County Supervisor of Elections on a one person one vote standard method. In November of this year one Landowner position is available and two popular positions.

## Here is a list of the 28 residents who have, or are currently, serving on the Board:

Grady, Kenneth	1971-1976	Van, Leon	2001-2012
O'Neal, Julian E.	1971-1976	Childer's, Daniel	2003-2003
Watson, Charles	1971-1979	Steinlage, Ann	2004-2005
Pollard, Eldridge	1976-1997	Smith, Joe	2005-2006
Birney, Joseph	1977-1988	Benson, Marsi	2005-2010
Sterling, William	1978-1984	Steinlage, Ann	2006-2007
Ankrom, Russell	1984-1996	Acker, Brian	2006-Present
Geiger, Walter	1988-1992	Poe, Ken	2007-2010
Tellschow, Michael	1993-1998	Lawens, Bill	2007-Present
DeCerbo, Joseph	1996-2006	Danko, Theresa	2010-2011
Boone, Monte	1998-2001	Foote, Jim	2010-2011
Emerson, Robert	1998-2004	McKenna, Tim	2011-Present
Calabrese, Kent	1998-2005	Behrendt, Gary	2011-Present
Rentel, William	1998-2007	Klingbiel, Arlene	2012-Present
Wolfe, Walter	2001-2003		

# Board of Supervisor Meetings

The Elected Board of Supervisors for the Spring Lake Improvement District meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m., at the District office. Any changes in the date or time are made via legal notice in the News-Sun and on the District web-site at [www.springlakefl.com](http://www.springlakefl.com)

At all Board meetings reports may be given by: District Treasurer; District Manager; Board Attorney; District Engineer; Special Guests; and working groups. Supervisors often make requests for staff to follow up on, and the Public has an agenda item for questions and comments. Additionally, the Public may comment on any motions made by the Board prior to being called for a vote.

## Here is a list of the remaining fiscal year meetings:

<b>April 9</b>	<b>May 14</b>	<b>June 11</b>
<b>July 9</b>	<b>August 13</b>	<b>September 10</b>

All Board minutes and financials are put on the District web site for public information.

# Visioning Project Begins

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council and Highlands County received a planning grant in the amount of \$40,000 to begin a Visioning Project as part of the County's Comprehensive Plan. It was agreed that staff from Spring Lake, the Airport, and the County would begin a series of meetings to discuss and forecast: Airport expansion; Commerce Park business growth; future density of the area; widening of Rt. 98; water and sewer; roads into the airport; public safety facilities; bike and walking trails; parks and recreation; and the Race Track.

County staff is working with the Florida State Department of Economic Development regarding current density, and the Regional Planning Council is preparing data and maps for the next meeting, which will be taking place sometime in April. By being a part of this process, Spring Lake can have a voice in how the County's Comprehensive Plan affects the 3,574 acres within our boundaries, and provide continues opportunities for networking and partnering with the County and Airport.

As these meetings take place and information develops, the District will use The Breeze to keep our residents up to date, similar as to what we did for the Florida Department of Transportation project on the widening of Rt. 98.

## **SPRING LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

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

# ***Drainage & Canal Maintenance***

Over the past several months you may have noticed District equipment and personnel cleaning out and refurbishing selected drainage and canal areas. This is part of the ever increasing water control projects that will impact every drainage area and canal in the District over the next 3-5 years. The silt that is taken out of the canals is allowed to dry and is then transported to nearby lots that are in need of fill. Most of these lots are on the District lot mowing program and the landowners have granted permission for the fill to be placed on their lots; thus making it much easier to mow the lot, and eliminate the cost of transporting the fill elsewhere. This is a win-win for the District and the lot owner.



*Canal De-Silting*



*Clubhouse Lane Before*



*Clubhouse Lane After*



*Gene Schriener, President,  
Craig A. Smith & Associates,  
Boca Raton, Florida*

## ***District Engineer's Update***

District Engineer Gene Schriener attended the March 12th Board meeting and updated Supervisors and staff on the works of the District. Gene and his staff have been working with the USDA in an effort to finalize a 40 year low interest loan to complete the remainder of our water control projects. This Federal loan will allow the District to spread costs over a long period of time rather than having current residents carry the burden.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) recently issued the District its Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) thru 2034. This document acknowledges and accepts the various water control projects and activities the District will be performing. As each project is developed it is permitted by SFWMD according to the ERP. The District has been working with SFWMD for over five years to secure the ERP.

A scope of work and bidding process has been established for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's grant to the District to begin the water retention, storage and quality project adjacent to the levee. The project will take up to two years to complete and is the first stage of our updated water control plan.

The Engineer and his staff provides much needed guidance in the development of potential grants and funding that can offset any monies we may need from the USDA program. The more grants we can receive the less debt the District will have to carry into the future. There are numerous meetings and seminars that are conducted by State and Federal agencies that they attend on behalf of Spring Lake.