



Know Your Supervisors

The Spring Lake Improvement District is governed through powers granted to the District by the Florida Statutes, Chapter 298. The charter that outlines these powers calls for a Board of Supervisors to be elected by both landowner and popular vote. Three of the Board seats are held via the landowner vote; one acre/portion equals one vote, and each home or lot equals one vote. As an example, if you owned a home and two additional lots you would have three votes to cast for a supervisor at a landowner election. If you owned 35 acres of land, you would have 35 votes. Each landowner seat is for a three-year term, guaranteeing at least one vacancy per year. A landowners' meeting is held every November prior to the regularly scheduled Board meeting, and the elected supervisor takes office immediately after the vote.

There are two popular seats on the Board that are based on a one-person, one-vote basis.

Know Your Supervisors on page 2



From left to right: Ken Poe, Leon Van, Marsi Benson, Bill Lawers, Brian Acker

Men's Association Christmas Party

The Spring Lake Men's Golf Association held their annual golf tournament and party at Spring Lake Golf Resort on Dec. 6. Over the years, this has become one of the more popular events conducted by the Association, and over 100 people participated. After a day of golf, participants had an enjoyable dinner at Michael's Clubhouse Restaurant.



Larry Miesner and Svein Grimholt dressed to the nines.



Entertainment by Debbie Sholly



Awards ceremony

Men's Association Christmas Party on page 4

Sink Hole At Pump Station

A major sinkhole was found at our pump station in a critical area. Within hours of finding the problem our District engineering firm, Craig A. Smith & Associates, were on site to evaluate the situation with our Field Maintenance Foreman Randy Nelson. After discussing several options, it was decided that we needed to dam the channel and drain all the water from in front of the pumps so that a physical inspection of the concrete wall could take place.

Since we would be disturbing the normal flow of water, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) had to be contacted. Rather than go through a 60- to 90-day permitting process, the SFWMD allowed an emergency notice to be filed and we were able to begin work on the

Sink Hole At Pump Station on page 5



Angela Hendrichsen with SFWMD inspects the sinkhole.



The Spring Lake Improvement District staff would like to extend its best wishes to all of our residents for a happy and safe 2008. We enjoy serving this wonderful community.

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Who's Who?

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

Board Of Supervisors:

Leon Van Chairman
 Marsi Benson Vice Chairperson
 Brian Acker Secretary
 Ken Poe

District Staff:

Joe DeCerbo District Manager
 Diane Angell Administrative Assistant
 Greg Gretz Water Department Supervisor
 Randy Nelson Maintenance Department Supervisor
 Gladys Eaglen Secretary

Field Staff:

John Laiosa Brian Murray Brian Patrick
 JR Clarke Neil Wilkinson Buddy Heinley
 Bill Maine Corey Jones

District Advisors:

William Nielander Attorney
 Gene Schriener Craig A. Smith Engineering
 Craig Wrathell Financial and Management
 Bruce Stratton Accounting and Auditing

To contact the District Office, call 655-1715, e-mail at slid115@embarqmail.com, or visit our Web site at www.springlakeimprovement.com. The offices and drive-up window area open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on weekends. There is a mail drop for depositing water bills just to the left of the main entrance.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency 911

Spring Lake Improvement District	655-1715
SLID After Hours	655-0615
Spring Lake Property Association	655-2230
Ambulance and Sheriff	385-5111
Sheriff Dispatch	402-7200
Highlands County Emergency Center	385-1112
Lorida Fire Department	655-0122
Desoto City Forestry Division	655-6407
Animal Control	655-6475
Florida Game and Wildlife	800-282-8002
Reliable Sanitation	385-0817
Auto and Boat Registration	402-6685
Comcast Cable	385-2578
Drivers License Facility	386-6053
Progress Energy	800-700-8744
Lorida Post Office	655-1321
Sebring Post Office	382-0578
Embarq	800-339-1811
Voter Registration	402-6655
School Board	471-5555
Hunting and Fishing License	402-6685
Hammock State Park	386-6094
Highlands Regional Medical Center	385-6101
Florida Hospital	314-4466

Neighborhood Watch

Chairman	Vohn Steinlage	655-4981
Village I	Dan Snyder	655-2723
Village II	Don Vandygriff	655-1762
Village III & IV	Joanne McCulley	655-1701
Village V	Lynn Benson	655-1081
Village VI	Ann Steinlage	655-4981

Legal Notice

Notice Of Meetings

The Board of Supervisors of the Spring Lake Improvement District will hold their meetings at the District Office, 115 Spring Lake Blvd., Sebring. The meetings will be held the second Wednesday of each month, beginning at 2 p.m.

Any person requiring special accommodations at these meetings because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (863) 655-1715 at least five calendar days prior to the meeting. Meetings may be continued at a later date and time, which will be announced at the meeting.

Each person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting is advised that that person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

Know Your Supervisors from page 1

These Board seats are for four-year terms and appear on the standard election ballots in the November of the election year. The next general election to fill these positions will take place in November 2010, and candidates must file their candidacy with the County Board of Elections.

All Board meetings are open to the public and are held the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the District Office at 115 Spring Lake Blvd. The Board operates, and is governed, by the Florida Sunshine Laws.

Board Chairman Leon Van:

He and his wife, Gail, have lived in Spring Lake for 10 years. They have four children and eight grandchildren. Originally from the Illinois-Indiana area just south of Chicago, Leon worked 31 years for AT&T and Ameritech before spending 10 years as president and owner of his own communications installation company. A member of the SLID Board for six years, he has spent the last two as its chairman. He and his wife are active volunteers at St. Vincent DePaul and attend St. James Catholic Church. He is a lifetime member of the Telephone Pioneers of America and was recently elected president of the Spring Lake Men's Golf Association. When Leon isn't cheering for his beloved Chicago Bears you can see him actively engaged in his favorite hobby ... golf.

Vice-Chairperson Marsi Benson:

Born in Vancouver, Wash., Marsi grew up from age 6 in Nebraska and she and husband, Lynn, are still very avid Nebraska Cornhusker fans. She attended the University in Langley British Columbia, Canada, and attended licensed practical nurse school where she graduated in 1971. A stay-at-home mom for her two sons until they went to college, she worked part-time as a nurse and became an administrator of an assisted living facility for six years. She worked for a group of ophthalmologists for six years before moving to Florida five years ago. Marsi is active in her church leadership and sings on the worship team. She enjoys her two grandchildren, golf, reading, creating cards, walking and

swimming. A Board member for three years she is also the chairperson for the District Personnel Committee.

Secretary Bill Lawens:

Became a member of the Board in November when he won the landowners election for a three-year position. He and his wife, Katheran, have been residents of Spring Lake for several years, and they have taken an active interest in a number of groups and projects.

Supervisor Brian Acker:

Brian became a member of the Board in 2006, and has been extremely active as its finance chairman. He is currently working on a major project that involves the clarification of all plats and easements that exist in Spring Lake, in preparation for our revised plan of reclamation. Brian has spent numerous hours on this tedious task that will be so vital to our future planning. He and his wife, Marjorie, have been permanent residents and landowners in Spring Lake since 2003, moving here from Connecticut. Brian has a criminal justice degree from Northwest Community College in Connecticut and was an employee of the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police, for 22 years; holding the positions of trooper, detective and sergeant. He retired as the executive officer of the major crime unit in the Western District. He has two children and two grandchildren.

Supervisor Ken Poe:

Ken was appointed to the Board to fill an existing vacancy in August. He and his wife, Linda, are the owners of Poe Construction, founded in 2002, with offices in Spring Lake. Ken has worked in the construction and development business for 40 years. He first came to Sebring in 1981, to work on Lakeshore Mall, and returned to Sebring in 1999, to build a home and become a resident. He became active in the Highlands County Builders Association and became its president in 2006-07, and has served on several committees for the Florida Home Builders Association. The Poes have four children and eight grandchildren and both remain stalwart Michigan football fans.





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Bagger Vance Returns To Spring Lake

By John Delaney

What do you get when you mix 56 golfers, two days of perfect Florida weather, the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* and *Dixie*, grits and gravy versus venison steaks, swimming pools versus snow blowers?

The Third Annual Bagger Vance Open at Spring Lake Golf Resort, Dec. 6 through 9.

Bagger Vance is far from the "normal" golf tournament. Bagger Vance was established not for whether Team Florida or Team National wins, but renewing old friendships and making new ones. What started four years ago with Chubby Prchal and myself inviting three friends to play with us has evolved into the current format that features partnership over prizes and patriotism over everything.

All such events have tee prizes, usually a commemorative bag tag. This year, to honor fallen heroes in the Middle East, Team National Chairman Guy Brouillard searched the Internet to match a soldier with a player from the same state. Military style "dog tags" with the Bagger Vance logo on one side and the name and hometown of the soldier on the other side. As Team Florida chairman I reminded everyone that without the sacrifices these individuals have made, we would not have the freedoms to enjoy weekends like the Bagger Vance Tournament.

Team National Chairman Chubby Prchal remarked, "Florida may have won this year, but have no doubt we will be back next year with a new, secret game plan that will show no mercy to the Southern aggressors. They will be hit

with a birdie barrage the likes of which they have never experienced."

The results of the Bagger Vance combined team scramble event are as follows:

First Place: Lou Guerton, Aaron Spence, Bob Hinde, Don Ray

Second Place: Henry Braswell, George Desjardins, Pat Jaskowski, Don Cleveland

Third Place: Jon Wittman, Steve Moore, Bill Lawens, Charlie Keniston

Bagger Vance individual matches:

Team Florida 32 Team National 10



New Offices At Sebring Raceway



Sebring International Raceway and the Sebring Airport Authority began construction on a new office building. For years, the office operated out of a large trailer located just to the east of Airport Road.

The new 10,000-square-foot two-story structure will include staff offices, track registration center, gift shop and ticket office. "This building will be a new landmark for Sebring," stated Raceway President and General Manager Tres Stephenson. "It will better serve race fans, officials and competitors and further enhances Sebring's stature in the motor sports industry."

Since acquiring Sebring International Raceway in 1998, Panoz Motor Sports Group has invested millions of dollars in upgrades to the facility. Despite the raceway's extensive history, it has never had a permanent headquarters. The new facility will replace existing office trailers, which were relocated to make room for the new building.

"This new construction project represents the continued commitment of Panoz Motor Sports Group in maintaining Sebring's reputation as a world-class motor sports facility," stated Scott Atherton, PMB president and CEO. "This structure will be an asset to the entire community."

As Spring Lake residents, we have a wonderful opportunity to take our family and guests to both the track and the airport. The Raceway headquarters has a wonderful gift shop and memorabilia items, and the airport terminal has shops and a restaurant. Take a ride down the Midway, tour the gift shop, and have lunch at the restaurant. It makes for a great visit. Of course, when the third Saturday in March comes along, be ready for the 56th edition of the *12 Hours of Sebring*.

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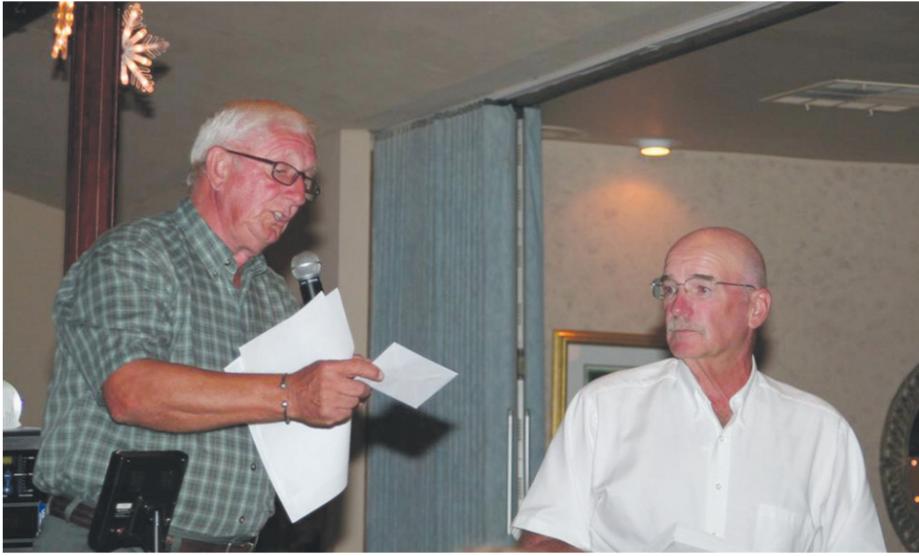
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197571	1310 Villaway West	\$124,900
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194561	303 Villaway East	\$139,500

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Men's Association Christmas Party from page 1



Bill Lawens and Leon Van announcing the awards.



A fun time dancing



The Frutcheys, Kenistons and Hernlys enjoy the festivities.



Enjoying a delicious meal



Sweethearts, Bill and Kathie Lawens

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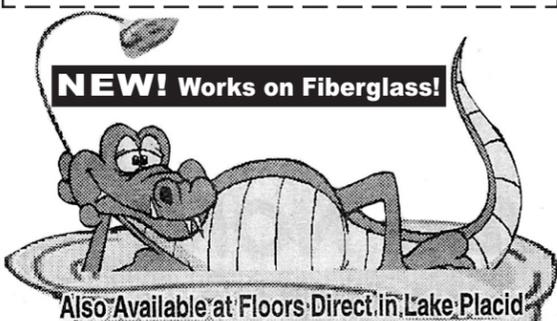


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Sink Hole At Pump Station from page 1

problem immediately.

District staff, with the help of local builder, Ken Poe Jr., were able to dam the channel and install the District- owned pump. Water was drained from the problem area into the existing canal that runs parallel to the dike. District staff were in charge of this segment of the project as well, and we did not have to contract any outside labor. A marine contractor had to be hired to inspect the damage to the wall, but our staff did a wonderful job in handling this potentially serious problem.

Unfortunately, the damage was more severe than anticipated. Over the years, nearly 23 feet of land had submerged to the point that only several feet of steel pylons were holding up the pump station. Our engineering firm, Craig A. Smith, declared a state of emergency and work needed to begin immediately. The Board of Supervisors met in emergency session on Thursday, Nov. 29, to receive all the details. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the repairs and Murray Logan Marine Construction began the work the following week.

The District is very fortunate to have found this problem before a major catastrophe with the pump station occurred.

As a result of this problem, an updated preventive maintenance program has been instituted to monitor workings of the pump station.



Water was drained from the existing canal.



The channel was drained to able a physical inspection of the pump.



Over the years, nearly 23 feet of land has submerged.

Debris Cleanup Program Ends

By Dan Snyder

The Spring Lake Property Association has completed the Hurricane Debris Cleanup Program. The project took longer than envisioned for many reasons. We worked very closely with the Improvement District and that saved the property owners thousands of dollars. Their staff and equipment were very important to this project, and using the District burn pile saved even more money as commercial dumpsites

wanted from \$50 to \$100 per load to take debris.

At this time I would like to thank everyone who was involved in this effort: Leon Van, Chairman, Spring Lake Improvement District Board of Supervisors; Joe DeCerbo, District Manager; Randy Nelson, District Foreman; Greg Gretz, District Water Superintendent; SLPA for their seed money; and SLID for their support.



District Staff Profile

LeCorey Jones, known to all of us as Corey, has been with the Spring Lake Improvement District since August of 2001. After performing a number of different jobs over the years, Corey was promoted to assistant foreman earlier in the year. He is in the process of completing his Aquatic Weed License program and is also responsible for our Mosquito Control Program.

Corey was born in Rochester, N.Y., and his family moved to Miami before settling in Sebring. Corey graduated from Sebring High School in 1991.

His wife, Felecia, is a nurse, and they reside in Sebring where they are raising their five children, ages 8 months through 15 years.

When not working for the District Corey can be found fishing, playing basketball with his boys or hunting. If there is anything you want to know about breeding, catching or eating fish ... Corey is the man to see!



Corey Jones

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*Free beverage w/purchase of a meal at the Spring Lake Restaurant when showing this ad.

Sebring Airport Launches Into Tomorrow

Since the first edition of the *Breeze* was published in February of '07, our friends at the airport have been both supporters and advertisers. Executive Director Mike Willingham and his Board have always taken an active interest in the well-being of Spring Lake and maintain frequent and open communications with the District. In a recent story about the airport in the *Heartland Sun Times*, Mike spoke about future developments at the complex, and the impact it will have on our community.

Mike spoke about additions and improvements to taxiways and runways, of a new administration building for the Raceway, additions to the Four Points hotel, executive and commuter jet service and the addition of a new industrial park dedication to aviation.

With the completion of new T-hangars ready for lease by corporate and private owners of aircraft, the opportunity for priority upgrades by the Federal Aviation Administration can

mean the flow of more grant money for expansion and development.

Day Jet executive air service has begun per-seat flights to day ports throughout Florida. Eliminating the long commute to and from major airports and the hassle of going through security should prove to be a boon to established area businesses and to new ones that are being attracted to the business-friendly environment of our area.

In the not-too-distant future Willingham foresees the addition of a 10,000-foot runway that can handle 80 to 90 passenger commuter airliners. Developers are taking into careful consideration any impact on Spring Lake and have involved the district on all of their expansion plans.

East of the airport is several hundred acres of land that was purchased for the new aviation park. Before the first shovel of dirt has been turned, potential clients in the business of supplying, supporting, and maintaining aircraft have expressed interest in becoming tenants. Easy access to utilities, the railroad and taxiways to the runways make the new park attractive to related industries.

The airport will be receiving city of Sebring water within the next few months, and the Spring Lake Board of Supervisors have requested a mutual aid agreement between the city and the District. In the event of an emergency or shutdown the airport can tap into Spring Lake water and conversely, if Spring Lake has an emergency or shutdown we can tap into city water. A special control valve will allow this to happen and ensure that both the airport and Spring Lake have backup water



supplies.

If you haven't visited the airport lately, please go and see the wonderful changes that have taken place. Willingham invites you to tour the terminal, enjoy lunch at Michaels Runway Café or the Four Point hotel, watch drivers running their cars through the paces on the track, explore the private aircraft and race car museum or simply drive through the industrial park to see the wide variety of businesses.

Whether you have a business interest to discuss or just want to know more about the operation and history of the airport, feel free to call 655-6444 and ask for Mike Willingham or Project Coordinator Erik Treudt.

The Sebring Airport was here long before Spring Lake became a community. As we both move forward into tomorrow, the communication and cooperation we have will be to the advantage of both entities.

January Calendar

All events are held in the Community Center unless otherwise noted:

1. Happy New Year
SLID Offices Closed
3. Yoga, 9:15 to 10 a.m.
Bridge, 6 p.m.
4. Aerobics, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
7. Aerobics, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
Tai Chi, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.
8. Yoga, 9:15 to 10 a.m.
Spring Lake Social, 3 p.m.
9. Crafts, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
10. Yoga, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
11. Aerobics, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
14. Aerobics, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
Tai Chi, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.
Spring Lake Property Association, 6 p.m.
15. Yoga, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
Waterway Villas, 7 p.m.
16. **Yard Waste Pickup**
Bunco, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
17. Yoga, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
Bridge, 6 p.m.
18. Aerobics, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
21. Martin Luther King Birthday Observance
SLID Offices Closed
Aerobics, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
Tai Chi, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.
22. Yoga, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
23. Crafts, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
24. Yoga, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
25. Aerobics, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
27. Community Center closed for Election
28. Community Center closed for Election
29. Yoga, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
30. Crafts, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Lakeside Estates Meeting, 5 p.m.
31. Yoga, 8:15 to 10 a.m.
Bridge, 6 p.m.

Lakeside Estates Update

By Vern Hoffman

The Lakeside Estates Homeowners Association Inc. will be having a Pizza Party on Jan. 30, 2008, 6 p.m. at the Spring Lake Community Center in Pine Breeze Park. This is an informal get-acquainted gathering for all Lakeside Estates owners and residents and is meant to share information about our community and Association.

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 6 p.m. at the Spring Lake Community Center. This annual business meeting is a required event for the Association. Annual reports, a proposed budget and the

election of three new Board members are all on the agenda. If you cannot attend in person, a proxy may count your presence. Be sure to inform us if your mailing address has changed.

The 4th Annual Picnic in the Park will once again be held, but a definite date has not been established yet. Good food, games and fun for everyone.

For further information or questions, contact us at: Lakeside Estates Homeowners Association Inc., P.O. Box 242, Lorida, FL 33857, e-mail: LakesideEstatesFlorida@gmail.com.

Automatic Utility And Lot Payments

Over 300 residential properties have signed up for this convenient service offered by the Improvement District. Have your water bill or lot-mowing bill paid on time without buying a stamp, writing a check or having to drive to the District Office to pay the bill.

Simply fill out a short form that can be secured at the Office, or call and we can e-mail or fax it to you. You will continue to receive your monthly bill; however, it will be stamped "Information Only ... Do Not Pay." It will then be

automatically deducted from your checking account on the 15th day of each month.

Whether you are a full-time resident or here for just the season, automatic payments are a simple, safe and easy way to have your bill paid. The program is coordinated with Highlands Independent Bank.

Contact the Improvement District Office at 655-1715 with any questions.

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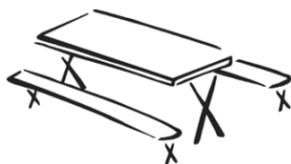
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EXP: JUNE 30, 2008

Village I Park

The U.S. Postal Service misplaced the *Breeze* and a number of residents did not receive their November editions for several weeks. A number of residents called or stopped by the office and after contacting the post office we were able to solve the concern.

Although we have received some input as to the future of the Park, we are extending input until Jan. 18. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion about what upgrades



and additions should be at the Park. Should the Park have a basketball court? A shelter? Playground equipment? Shuffleboard? Benches and picnic tables?

Please e-mail the District at slid115@embarqmail.com with Village I Park in the subject line; fax us at 655-4430; or mail your ideas to Spring Lake Improvement District, 115 Spring Lake Blvd., Sebring, FL 33876.

We thank you in advance for taking the time to assist with this project.

Bits And Pieces

• The Rev. Andy Conyer shares a Web site for us to use: www.dailygratitude.com.

• Did you know that if you are a Florida resident and are over the age of 65 you no longer need fishing or hunting licenses? Just have a valid driver's license with you.

• Keep up to date on our nearest Lake happenings at www.istokpoga.org

• Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman asked, "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" She simply replied, "No peer pressure!"

• Tips on pumping gas to save you money:

• Fill up your vehicle in the morning when the ground temperature is cooler. The cooler the ground the more dense the gas.

• Use the low speed on the handle to minimize vapors.

• Fill up when the tank is half empty so you have less air and prevent evaporation.

• In its entire lifetime, the average worker bee produces just 1/12th teaspoon of honey

• *Growing Bolder Insider* is an electronic newsletter based out of Orlando that features articles and updates for Boomers. Free subscriptions at <http://growingbolder.com>.

• If you were among the first to sign up with the Do Not Call Registry in 2003, you will need to re-register by June 2008. To update visit www.donotcall.gov.

• Did you know that there are over 34,000,000 family caregivers in the United States? The ratio of caregiver to care receiver in 1990 was 11 to 1; the ratio is projected to be 4 to 1 in 2050. Nationally, as of 2004, Florida ranks as the fourth state in the number of caregivers.

• Highlands County has announced that water restrictions are in place until June of 2008. A number of our residents are watering when they shouldn't. Be aware that the county will levy a fine against you if they are contacted. Neighbors should watch for violators; it affects all of us.

• Steve Danko, Clubhouse Lane, died on Nov. 27, in his home. Our sympathy to his son, John, a Spring Lake resident, and daughter-in-law, Theresa.

We Miss You

By David Hawkins, British Poet

This poem honors all deceased mothers on their birthdays:

You can shed tears that she is gone,
Or you can smile because she has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back,
Or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see her,
Or you can be full of the love you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember her only that she is gone,
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind,
Be empty and turn your back.

Or you can do what she'd want,
Smile, open our eyes, love, and go on.



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