



Spring Lake BREEZE

Florida... the way it should be!



Happy Anniversary Spring Lake

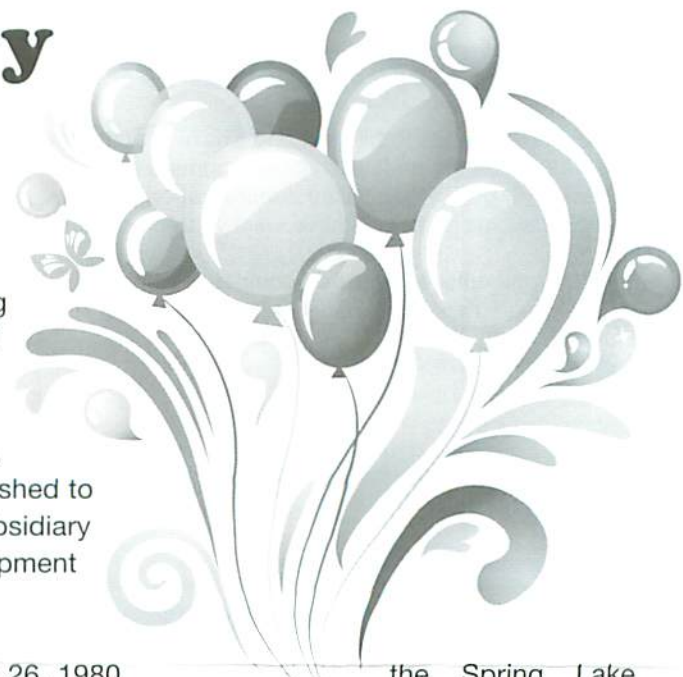
September 22, 1971 • 40 Years

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.

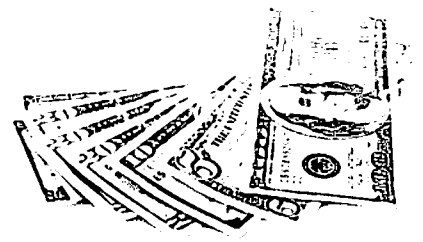
Throughout the 70's, Spring Lake grew and developed. On July 26, 1980 Golf Course marked its grand opening. That same year the Community Center completed, and has remained in its current location since that time. In addition to Pine the Community Center is located, the District also maintains a park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

the Spring Lake remodeling was Breeze Park, where Russ Ankrom

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 10:00 a.m. in the District Offices.



No Increase in Assessments



After numerous discussions, meetings, and public hearings, the Spring Lake Board of Supervisors established the General Fund assessment for FY '12. A public hearing was conducted on August 17th and the Board at its September 1st meeting approved the budget. The assessments are now sent to the County Tax Collector for inclusion on the County tax bills. There are no increases in the assessments.

Village I is excluded from the General Fund assessment because that portion of the community is not in the Spring Lake Improvement District Boundary. Therefore, they only pay a portion of parks and streetlights and are exempt from the drainage assessments.

The FY '12 assessment is \$302.83, and the Village I assessment is \$22.97.

	Fiscal Year 2011 Assessments	Fiscal Year 2012 Assessments
Drainage	\$1,013,040	\$1,033,823
Parks	107,746	94,620
Street Lights	32,850	20,500
TOTAL	\$1,153,636	\$1,148,944
	\$303.91 per taxable unit	\$302.83 per taxable unit
	\$26.14 Village I units	\$22.97 Village I units

The complete budget can be viewed on the District web site or in the District Office.

Professional Development

A Personnel Workshop Public Meeting was held at the District Office in preparation for the FY '12 budget process. Supervisors were given a presentation on the professional development process that has taken place in the District over the last five years; plans and objectives for succession planning; a salary administration program; and developing a new employee handbook. Additionally, revised and updated personnel policies and procedures were written and approved by the Board.

The following employee synopsis compared what was in place in 2006 and what the District currently has in place. As you can see, our District has an educated, experienced, and qualified TEAM.

In 2006 Personnel had:

- 1 Class C Water License
- 1 Aquatics License
- 1 Notary
- 1 CPR

In 2011:

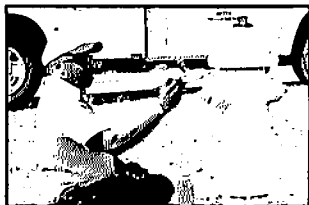
- 1 Bachelors Degree
- 1 Masters Degree
- 2 Certified District Manager Certifications
- 1 Class A Water License
- 2 Water Distribution Certifications
- 2 Aquatic Spraying Licenses
- 3 Hazardous Waste Certifications
- 10 CPR
- 1 Personnel Legal Compliance Certification
- 2 Notaries
- 2 Government Finance Accounting
- 1 SAGE Accounting
- 12 Staff with multiple in-service training credits



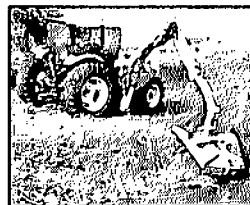
Front Row: (Left to Right) Wendi Allison, Travis Turner, Joe DeCerro, JR Clarke, Randy Nelson, Bill Maine
 Back Row: (Left to Right) Clay Shrum, Travis Nolen, Diane Angell, Josh Nolen, Brian Patrick, John Laiosa



Field Superintendent Randy Nelson regularly maintains the diesel pumps at the District Pump Station.



Water Technician JR Clarke regularly maintains fire hydrants



Canal Banks require routine maintenance



Recently licensed John Laiosa sprays 17 miles of canals



Levee Maintenance is ongoing

Bits and Pieces

Useful Data and Information for Residents

SLID or SLPA: Residents often confuse the Spring Lake Improvement District (SLID), for the Spring Lake Property Association (SLPA), and come to the District Offices on Spring Lake Blvd. SLID is the government entity with elected officials that oversee the entire District.

The SLPA is one of many associations that enforce deed restrictions; their group annually publishes the popular telephone directory. The SLPA offices are in the shopping plaza and they can be contacted at 655-2230.

Water Tank: Work has been completed on the 250,000-gallon ground storage tank. Crews were inside the tank removing old material and applying new epoxy to ensure its protection for many years to come. Spring Lake residents are fortunate to have the type of water department we have, and the professionals who oversee it. How many times have you read in the paper that a community has a boil order? When was the last time we had one in Spring Lake!!!! When you look at your water bill keep in mind that the cost is not just for the water you use, but also for the cost in upkeep and maintenance.

Water Bill Payments: Over 700 residents now use the Automatic Payment (ACH) or credit cards to pay their water bills. If you haven't registered, please inquire at the Office. A Phone Tree Calling Program informs users if their bill is delinquent and gives them an opportunity to pay their bill prior to their water being turned off, at their expense.

Public Hearing

The Fiscal Year 2012 District Budget and the Water Rates and Fees were discussed at a Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 17, 2011, 10:00 a.m. at the District Office. The budgets and rates are posted on our web site at www.springlakefl.com

Preliminary Engineering Report: There are numerous projects that will be completed in our District to meet the water control plan mandates. District Engineers will have a draft copy of this report for Board review prior to submitting to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to qualify for their 40-year loan program; a method that will save current residents higher assessments and costs shared by people who move into Spring Lake in future years.

Gazebo: By no later than January 1, 2012 the Gazebo will no longer be available for use. The structure, built when the community first developed, currently houses the lending closet, operated by the Property Association. Plans are being discussed to remove the Gazebo and install a shelter and picnic table.

County District: Highlands County Commissioners unanimously adopted the recently remapped County Districts. Spring Lake remains in District 2 where Commissioner Don Elwell both represents and lives in our community.

Highlands County Joint Venture: County Road and Bridge is assisting the District with drainage improvements in Village VIII, Lakeside Estates. The District is providing the materials and the County has allocated almost \$25,000 in labor and equipment. The County Board of Commissioners approved the project at their July 19, 2011 meeting.

Gator Extractions: Thru an agreement with Florida Fish and Wildlife only the District Manager can request the extraction of an aggressive gator. If you identify a gator that needs to be removed, please report it to the District Office and we will investigate.

District Charter Revision Survey Results

In November 2010 Spring Lake residents defeated a referendum to revise the existing District Charter. Mosquito control was one part of that revision and the District had to suspend service. The Board requested an opinion from State Attorney General Pam Biondi asking if the District could spray in spite of the referendum being defeated. She stated that the District was not authorized to spray for mosquitoes unless the authority was specifically set forth in the Charter.

As a result of public comments from both residents and property associations at District meetings, the Board of Supervisors discussed another charter revision process. The Board requested that all landowners and residents in each Village be sent a direct mail letter and survey; publish the information in The Breeze newsletter; place the information on our website; and ask the Spring Lake Property Association to publish it in their newsletter.

As of September 2nd 564 surveys were completed and returned to the District Office with the following results: 429 in favor of mosquito control; 58 opposed; 335 in favor of language change; 79 opposed.

Some surveys were returned with only one item checked or was left blank.

Supervisor Brian Acker, representing the Board, attended the Highlands County Delegation Meeting held at the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners room on Wednesday, September 14 to present the Draft Bill and attachments to the Delegation. The District Board will have a monthly agenda item on the Charter, as well as Supervisor Acker coordinating several public information meetings prior to a final draft being submitted to the State Legislature for action.

The local bill updates and streamlines the District's governing document (currently 42 pages long) by removing repetitive language already contained in Florida Statutes, Chapters 189 and 298. The bill updates the elections provisions of the District's charter to reflect that there are currently 2 popularly elected Supervisors. The bill gives the District the authority to conduct mosquito control activities. It does not grant any other new powers to the District, nor does it remove or modify any current powers. The bill does not authorize any new taxes or assessments.

SPRING LAKE

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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

Phone Tree Reminds Residents of Overdue Water Payments



Residents who are late in paying their water bills receive recorded phone calls from the District. These calls are a courtesy extended to all water customers, and are a friendly reminder that you are late in paying your water bill. Calls are not meant to be harassing, but to assist the customer in avoiding late fees and service disconnection.

The water department is governed by policies and procedures that are approved by the District Board of Supervisors, and coordinated by District staff. According to Board policy, a \$5 penalty fee is posted and termination is 10 days after the due date.

Here is how the Phone Tree system works. The first call notifies you that your bill has not been paid and you have 72 hours prior to disconnection. If you do not come in to pay your bill you receive a second call making you aware *that in 48 hours your water will be disconnected*. A final call is made notifying you that your water is going to be terminated for non-payment. Prior to this final call being made we check each delinquent account to determine if there is a special circumstance that we need to address.

For example, a customer who has never had a late fee in 7 years is on the list. They may have gone on vacation; someone is sick; or another emergency has occurred.

Customers can avoid any Phone Tree calls, late fees, or disconnections by simply being on the ACH program and having the money automatically deducted from your checking account and you receive a monthly invoice showing a zero balance. You can also use a major credit card.

Monthly Base Rate charges start at \$18 per month for standard size meter.

Water Use fees 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.

Lakeside Estates Drainage Project

Thanks to the work of Highlands County Road and Bridge personnel, the cooperation of the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners and the County Engineering Department, a major drainage project is underway in Village VIII. Spring Lake is grateful to the County for working on this joint venture. The District purchased all the needed materials and the County is providing the people and equipment. When this project is completed there are several other small drainage areas in Village VIII that will be addressed by the District.

