Spring Lake BREEZE

Florida... the way it should be!





Board Update

This issue of The Breeze contains the State Mandated Report to the residents of Spring Lake on our water supply system. It is an annual report that is published every June, and we are very fortunate to have the quality water system that we do. District staff moves quickly to make any necessary repairs and to prevent unwanted disruptions in your access to water. Our staff is experienced, well trained, and dedicated.

During summer months the Board continues to work on the next fiscal year budget and reviews the various projects and activities that are being conducted in the District. The largest project, the multi-million dollar Storm Water Treatment Project, should be completed by mid-summer. Plans continue to move forward on the construction of a new waste water treatment plant, and the upgrading and renovation of our pump station.

The District Board and Staff both congratulate and thank Edd and Rita Vowels on purchasing the Spring Lake Golf Resort. The golf course is a major entity in our community that fell on hard times over the last several years, and we all look forward to the improvements that are being planned. The growth of the golf course means growth for Spring Lake; new development is going to take place, and property values should be on the upswing.

Pictured left to right: Brian Acker, Leon Van, Tim McKenna, Bill Lawens, Gary Behrendt

Phone Tree

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.

Credit Card Payments Online

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

Residents may now pay their water bills with credit cards.

This is another convenience to ensure that your bill is paid on time and avoids late fees or possible water shut off. While the District still accepts cash and checks, our preference is for you to be on the ACH program. Go to www.springlakefl.com

Meter Tampering

District Water Department personnel regularly conduct inspections on customer water meters and boxes and make repairs to those that have been damaged, especially by lawn mowers. IT IS ILLEGAL for residents to tamper with meter boxes or the utility shut-off valve.

By Resolution, the Board of Supervisors made tampering subject to a $100 penalty. This includes: operating a tagged or locked meter valve; removing a meter; hooking up a meter illegally; or any action performed to change a meter's reading. There are additional costs for repairs if the meter valve or piping is damaged. The homeowner is responsible for payment prior to the restoration of water service.

The District Utility Dept. will turn your water service on or off during normal business hours (8-4:30 M-F) free of charge. After hours, weekends, or holidays, the service charge is $40.

Homeowners or plumbers are NOT ALLOWED to turn off/on water valves.

2015 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Spring Lake Improvement District

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is three wells that draw water from the Floridan aquifer. Before delivery to you, the water is disinfected with chlorine and a blend of phosphate is added to inactivate or sequester mineral ions naturally found in water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Clay R. Shrum Assistant District Manager at (863) 655-1715. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. This report will be mailed to customers in the Spring Lake Breeze and is also available at the District Office, located at 115 Spring Lake Boulevard. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the Spring Lake District Office.

Spring Lake Improvement District routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2015. Also included are test results in earlier years for contaminants sampled less often than annually. For contaminants not required to be tested for in 2015, test results are for the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations authorized by the state and approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or on-line at their web site www.epa.gov/safewater/..

As water travels over the land or underground it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring, or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

To remain in compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act we are required to test for over 80 contaminants. Reported below are only those that were detected through laboratory analysis. The remaining approximately 70 contaminants were undetected. In the data table you will find many terms you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following key to these terms' abbreviations and definitions:

TERM Appearing in TABLE		DEFINITION
Action Level	**AL**	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
Not Applicable	**n/a**	Does not apply
Parts per million	**ppm**	*or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* – one part by weight of contaminant to one million parts by weight of the water sample.
Parts per billion	**ppb**	*or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)* – one part by weight of contaminant to one billion parts by weight of the water sample.
Picocuries per liter	**pCi/L**	*picocuries per liter* is a measure of the radioactivity in water
Maximum Contaminant Level	**MCL**	The "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	**MCLG**	The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	**MRDL**	The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	**MRDLG**	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs to not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

In 2015 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. These assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. A search of the data sources indicated no potential sources of contamination. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at ***www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp***

2015 Compliance Monitoring

** Results in the Level Detected column for Radioactive and Inorganic contaminants are the highest detected level at any sampling point.

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Number	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	01/2015	N	1	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in >1 sample collected during a month.	Naturally present in the environment

Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCL Violation Yes/No	Level Detected **	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Monitoring Period Month/Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	No	5.3	N/A	0	15	04/14	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 and Radium 228 or combined Radium (pCi/l)	No	3.0	N/A	0	5	04/14	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants

Barium (ppm)	No	0.106	N/A	2	2	04/14	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	No	0.319	N/A	4	4	04/14	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels between 0.7 and 1.3 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	No	17.7	N/A	n/a	160	04/14	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products (D/DBP)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	1/15 - 12/15	NO	2.2	1.1 to 2.2	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

Stage 2 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products (D/DBP)

Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	08/15	NO	42.1	23.8 to 42.1	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	08/15	NO	57.7	36.0 to 57.7	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Action Level Violation Yes/No	90th Percentile Result	Number of Sampling Sites Exceeding the Action Level	MCLG	Action Level	Dates of sampling Month/Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	No	0.0155	0	1.3	AL=1.3	06/14	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

We are required to issue the following information, even though you have no Lead detected in your water:
If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Spring Lake Improvement District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

We at the Spring Lake Improvement District would like for you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to insuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.

Esta es información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Si no comprende completamente el documento en ingles, es posible que podamos traducirlo al español para usted. Para más información, llame al (863) 655-1715.

SPRING LAKE
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
115 Spring Lake Blvd.
Sebring, FL 33876
863.655.1715 phone
863.655.4430 fax

District Proceeds with Water Safety Initiatives -All homes could have a potential Cross Connection.

Some homes have underground lawn irrigation, swimming pools or hot tubs. The availability of auxiliary water supply from a well or drainage canal is most likely the highest hazard that we will see here. Our main goal is to educate the water customers and protect the public health of the citizens in our community here at the Spring lake Improvement District.

With recent regulatory activity from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, (Rule 62-555.360, Florida Administrative Code) rule revisions allow for utilities to take a new approach. Therefore, the need to expand our existing program for regulating all residential customers has been modified. These changes will reduce the cost to our customers. This new approach will allow utilities to install a lower cost back-flow device in the ground at the customer service meter. This expense has been incorporated into your monthly utility bill. The residual dual check valve when installed, is attached to the utility water meter at the current customer service connection and will be maintained and serviced by SLID. The residential service line downstream of the dual check valve assembly will remain the responsibility of the water customer to maintain. Although these devices have been installed at numerous customer's meters for several years, we feel that we should remind or advise you that you may need to have thermal expansion control installed.

What is Thermal Expansion?

When the Dual Check Assembly is installed at your home, you must be aware of the potential problems that could arise due to the effects of thermal expansion. When water is heated, it expands and requires more volume; this is called thermal expansion. A backflow preventer installed at a service connection will stop heated water in the customer's plumbing system from expanding back into the public water system, which creates what is called a closed plumbing system at the customer's premises. Thermal expansion in a closed plumbing system will cause an increase in pressure in the system. The increased pressure usually causes the temperature and pressure relief (T&P) valve on a water heater tank to open and discharge water from the water heater tank. If you observe an increase in pressure or the water heater T&P (temperature & pressure) valve periodically discharges, you should consult with a plumber. This problem is corrected with the installation of an expansion tank installed on the cold water feed to the water heater.