

Emergency Operations Center

During a time of emergency, when power and communications are not available, it is important to have a facility in our community that can disseminate information and to have a central control area for District personnel. In close cooperation with the Highlands County Emergency Management staff, our District Office has made several improvements to handle any future emergency situations. A large in-ground generator, able to keep the office fully operational, has been installed. A satellite system has been secured to acquire reports from the Weather Channel, news channels and other information outlets. Already in place has been a two-way radio system with our own communications tower in the back of the office. Bids are currently being taken to explore the cost of hurricane shutters.

The Center **will not** be used for housing or medical assistance due to existing laws. By working with the county we will have access to a restricted dispatch that will notify us of available shelters, pet facilities, medical support and other services. If land or cell phones are still operating you can call the Center, or you can come to the drive-up window to secure information.

In spite of our preparations, we would love to never have to use any of these emergency services. However, we must be proactive and be prepared for the worst. Forecasters are predicting a busier than normal hurricane season this year, with 13 to 17 named storms; seven to 10 hurricanes; and three to five major hurricanes. Atlantic names that have been selected for 2007 are:

- Andrea
- Barry
- Chantal
- Dean
- Erin
- Felix
- Gabrielle
- Humberto
- Ingrid
- Jerry
- Karen
- Lorenzo
- Melissa
- Noel
- Olga
- Pablo
- Rebekah
- Sebastien
- Tanya
- Van
- Wendy



District Office



Generator

The Highlands County Emergency Management Team has compiled an excellent publication, *All Hazards Guide 2007-08 Edition* that is available in the District Office in limited quantities. It can also be secured at the West George Boulevard location. Simply stop by our office, inside or at the drive-up window, and ask for your copy, which is **free of charge**.

For those of us who live here during the summer, being prepared for a storm is the most important part of getting through an emergency. Don't wait until the last minute to store up on needed supplies, checking your generator, making your house secure and following all the suggestions from the various agencies dispensing advice.

New Equipment Improves Service

With some tractors almost 15 years old and mowers over 10 years old, it was time to look at new equipment. A recent study indicated that the older equipment was not in operation almost 30 percent of the time due to breakdowns, repairs and lost time waiting for hard-to-get parts due to the age of our equipment.

The Improvement District became eligible for what is known as the State Bid List. This is a program used by most cities and counties to secure equipment at a greatly reduced price. Manufacturers and suppliers compete with each other on a wide variety of equipment and items used in municipalities. The lowest bids are then published on a Web site that we can go to and secure the discounts. We have been doing this for all of our equipment and saving the District thousands of dollars.

The two new John Deere tractors and mowers are being used exclusively for the lot-mowing program and the results have been outstanding. With enclosed cabs, our personnel are protected from the elements and they can continue mowing when light showers occur. The equipment is more



Field maintenance employee, John Laiosa, is shown in one of two John Deere tractors.

effective and modern upgrades have decreased the amount of time it takes to mow a lot.

Another addition to our maintenance department is a John Deere gator that will be used to spray the canals. A large

chemical tank will be installed in the back and what was a two-person process when a Ford Ranger was used will now be done by one person.



District Foreman Randy Nelson displays the equipment to be used for canal spraying.

Have a
Safe and
Happy
4th of July



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Who's Who?

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

Board Of Commissioners:

Leon Van	Chairman
Marsi Benson	Vice Chairperson
Bill Rentel	Secretary
Ann Steinlage	
Brian Acker	

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	
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

Spring Lake Resident Was African Missionary

When Rev. Jim Annis was a young boy he dreamed of the day when he would settle in Central Florida. That dream came true in 1976, following 15 years as a missionary in Ghana, when he and his wife, Dottie, and their five children moved to Spring Lake.



"When I was young, my family used to travel through Sebring on its way to Sumter County. I loved the view that the area offered, especially the beautiful lakes and orange groves," Annis recalled. "We were looking to build a home in 1976, and because of my boyhood dream, we settled in Spring Lake.

"There were good-sized lots, sensible deed restrictions to protect our investment, good water, several recreational areas and the houses weren't packed up against each other. It was a beautiful area where you were free to do what you wanted without worrying about your safety. We just loved the place."

Before moving to Spring Lake, the Annis family spent 15 years in West Africa from 1964 to 1978 where Annis was a missionary with the Southern Baptist Convention. Ghana was an underdeveloped country when he first arrived there and some areas were very primitive, although some of the cities were very modern by African standards. Because Ghana had previously been under British rule for several hundred years, he was concerned about his relationship with the Ghanians.

"Our minds were set at ease by a Ghanaian professor, and a friend of ours, who told us that if we treated everyone with the same amount of respect, we would be treated with the same respect. We found this to be very true."

In 1966 the existing government of Premier Kwame Nkrumah was overthrown. The nation was in great financial trouble and they went through a bloodless coup. In April of 1968 there was another attempted coup, violent and with guns.

The Annis family found inflation to be extremely high in Ghana and had to carry with them a three-year supply of daily necessities such as food, clothing and household goods. One can of pork and beans cost \$4, a pound of meat \$10, one chicken \$30, and a gallon of gasoline \$4.

The Annis family returned from Ghana in 1976 but have gone on furloughs several times, every three or four years, and have visited many European countries, as well as northern and eastern African nations.

Once in Spring Lake, it didn't take Annis very long to start working his magic. He was the founding pastor of Whispering Pines near the current Home Depot. He pastored there from 1979 through 1986. Until the church was ready to be occupied he conducted services in the Spring Lake Community Center.

He left Whispering Pines in 1986 to become the Director of Missions for Pasco County, headquartered in Dade City. He worked with 35 churches in that area, but kept his home in Spring Lake so he could return on weekends. His wife, Dottie, home schooled each of their five children at their home on Honeysuckle, where they have lived continuously since 1976. The children now live in Texas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Jim retired in 1995 but has been an advocate for youth programs in Spring Lake. He is always trying to develop programs and activities for young people, and he has voiced his praise for all the new improvements that are being made in our community to help keep young people occupied.

There are many human-interest stories about our Spring Lake residents ... this has been one of them.

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 3:30 p.m.

Any person requiring special accommodations at these meetings because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (863) 655-1815 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.

Milestone Water Meter

Poe Builders recently completed construction of a new residence at 628 Carissa, the new subdivision that borders the golf course. This home represents water meter number 1,500 that has been installed in Spring Lake. There is a lot of activity in the Carissa area and additional units will be going up each month.

Raphael and Alina Perez have been coming to Spring Lake for the past seven years. They reside in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and look forward to the day they can spend more time in Spring Lake. Owners of several other properties, they and their three children visit at least twice a year. They fell in love with the new model that is being constructed by Poe Builders and actually ordered all of their furnishings from

West Coast Furniture via the Internet and phone from Guatemala!



Alina Perez accepts the 1,500th water meter that will be connected to her new home. Greg Gretz, right, water superintendent, and J.R. Clarke, left, water technician, present the meter.

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Spring Lake United Methodist Church

In a Sebring news article dated Oct. 21, 1981, the groundbreaking for the Spring Lake United Methodist Church was announced. The story describes how a Lillian Palmer told people at the consecration of the grounds how she and her late husband, Duane Palmer, came to Spring Lake in the early '40s from New York. They farmed over 1,000 acres, which eventually became our Spring Lake community. The Rev. Perry James held the official groundbreaking ceremonies and Lakeland District Superintendent Dr. Jimmy Jones led a host of dignitaries from the area. The church was officially constituted by Jones on Easter Sunday of 1981 after it was organized by a Planning Committee, which, the article stated, included Mr. and Mrs. Reed McLean Jr., Dr. Odell Miley, Freda Hawkins and others.



Foster Alter was the administrative Board chairman; Jim Zimmerman headed the Building Committee; and Clayton Hall, the Finance Committee. The congregation raised the money to construct a chapel with a multipurpose room on acres bought by the District in 1979.

In another article dated Feb. 10, 1982, the newspaper

noted the church had experienced a steady growth in interest and cooperation of members and friends. A Bible study group was meeting with Clayton Hall as one of the teachers. An active Women's Group was being led by Mrs. John Gill as president. Howard Pike was president of the men's

organization.

As we fast forward to 2007, it was recently noted that Rev. Dale Schanely was retiring after 16 years service to the church. The new minister will be the Rev. Clyde Weaver, now serving at a church in Virginia.

Rev. Weaver graduated from Warren Wilson Junior College with a liberal arts degree. It was there he met Jewell Banks, who he married in October 1958. The Weavers have two daughters, Donna and Denise, and three granddaughters. He joined the Army in 1958 and served until 1961. After his discharge he returned to Virginia to teach music and received a bachelor's degree from Madison College in Harrisburg, Va., majoring in history with a minor in music.

In June of 1968 he entered the United Methodist ministry and graduated in 1971 from Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C. In June, 1973 he was ordained elder in the Virginia Annual Conference with full connection. He continued in active ministry until June 1999 with 31 years of service. Having retired in 1999, the Weavers moved to Florida and bought a home in the Palms Estate in Florida. He began to worship at Spring Lake United Methodist and for six years assisted in the ministry. He returned to Virginia to serve as minister from June 2005 through June 2007. He assumed the pulpit in Spring Lake on June 24.

Automatic Water Bill Payments

Many people have taken advantage of the new automatic billing program now offered by the District. If you are interested in having your checking account automatically pay your bill through your bank, call the office at 655-1715 to receive your form. Known as ACH, the forms are available at the District Office.



Where The Water Goes And How You Can Help Conserve

- The typical lawn sprinkling system will pump out 10 to 20 gallons a minute.
- Hand-washing dishes can use 2.5 to 4 gallons a minute.
- Dishwashers will use 7 to 12 gallons per load.
- Washing machines use 27 to 47 gallons per load.
- Toilet flushing uses up to 5 gallons, depending on the flow model.
- A family of four averages 20 flushes per day.
- Showers use 2 to 4 gallons per minute.
- It takes 36 gallons to fill a bath tub.
- Washing hands or brushing teeth, 1.5 to 4 gallons per minute.

Have you ever wondered how our water charges compare with surrounding communities? Here are the latest rates as of May:

	Minimum Charge	Cost Per 1,000 Gallons
Spring Lake	\$10.00	\$1.43
Lake Placid	13.00	1.45
Sun 'n Lake	10.00	1.50
Avon Park	11.30	2.70
Sebring	11.80	3.30

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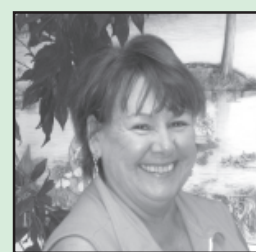
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Spring Lake Golf Villas Available

MLS #	ADDRESS	PRICE
195931	1105 Villaway	\$139,900
192670	207 Villaway East	\$142,000
192544	2208 Villaway East	\$179,000
194561	303 Villaway East	\$148,500
191566	707 Villaway North	\$132,000
188797	1010 Villaway West	\$127,900
193389	1103 Villaway West	\$139,900
194557	1202 Villaway West	\$124,900
194287	1302 Villaway West	\$109,900

Women Golfers Win It All

Over 15 years ago the golf courses throughout Highlands County started a golf competition between themselves that became known as The InterClub. The monthly tournaments were played at participating courses on a revolving basis from April through November, with each club receiving points for finishing first, second, third, etc.. A cumulative total after the November event crowned the winners. Over

the years it has been difficult to maintain a consistent team from Spring Lake, but the past few years a dedicated group of women have persevered.

The first match of the 2007 season was held on April 23 at Sebring Municipal Golf Course. Nine teams competed in the opening tournament, and the team from Spring Lake made history by winning for the **first time!** It was a

momentous and fun time for all the women who participated; especially those who have been playing for a number of years and not being very successful.

Individual honors were also won by the Spring Lake women: Teri Swisher, Lisa Merritt, Betty Price and Joann Deweese. Betty also won closest to the pin.



Team photo, left to right: Dottie Blackwell, Betty Price, Julia Starr, Teri Swisher, Joann Deweese, Debbie Delaney, Linda Pfleger, Jean Donahue, Lisa Merritt, Terrie Austin, Bernie Ray



Spring Lake Golf Resort hosted a wine and cheese party for all the players on May 10 to mark the occasion. Certificates were presented to each woman by Laura Poe.

Recycling Containers

It is unfortunate that a program that does so much good for a community can also be one of its biggest problems. The Highlands County Board of Commissioners has supported recycling throughout the area and containers to put papers, plastic and bottles have been available to Spring Lake for years.

Located near the tennis courts, many people try to do their part and regularly use the containers. Unfortunately, as each month goes by, more and more littering and illegal dumping are occurring by a minority of people. The containers are being used for all kinds of garbage, and many times people are just dumping anywhere near the containers, making the area an

eyesore. We recently had to remove tires, a kitchen sink, plywood, rubber hoses and plastic pipes! Additionally, graffiti has been sprayed on the containers three different times in the last two months, causing the county to have to replace them.

With the improvements that are being made at Pine Breeze Park, as well as refurbishing the tennis courts and adding a basketball court, the containers no longer are appropriate for that area. The District will be working with the county to either relocate the containers or eliminate them completely.

In the meantime, anyone can report littering and illegal dumping by calling the county hotline at 655-6400.

Bark Park A Great Place For Your Dog



Bark Park is Sebring's newest play park for owners with canine companions. Here the pet is legally allowed to be off the leash and encouraged to run and play with other dogs. The park is located at 701 Thunderbird Hill Road, and for more information you can go to its Web site at www.dogdesignsbydana.com, or call them at 314-9883.

The park is situated on three acres and has four different sections designed for various dogs' needs. Serenity Corner is for docile, quiet, timid and calm dogs. The Down and Dirty Corner is a high-energy play area. The Play Pen is for those dogs that are social and like to mix. Tornado Alley is for dogs that don't mix but need exercise.

The park features privacy fencing, screening, security, swinging tire toys, a water pond, sand pit, hammocks, benches and water misters. Retail toys and refreshments are also available, along with a self-serve dog wash.

The park is open Monday through Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. A one-time registration fee per dog is \$20 for various administrative services and various fees for daily or annual use.

The Improvement District does not have authority over pet complaints in Spring Lake; that is the county's responsibility. People who walk their dogs wherever they want and don't bother to pick up the mess cannot be fined by the District. It is suggested that you contact the county when you see someone who takes their dog to another part of the community and disrespects your area.

It has been suggested that the District uses harsh chemicals to control weeds and that these chemicals can kill dogs. The District uses Round Up, a proven and safe weed spray, around poles and trees in the county medians. No harsh chemicals are used.

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District Improvements Continue

The Spring Lake Improvement District Board of Commissioners is committed to the various capital projects and improvements that are needed for our community; many of which have been delayed over the years. During the next several months you will continue to see projects at the various parks, the tennis courts and playground and picnic areas at Pine Breeze Park. In case you haven't seen some of the projects, here are some pictures for you to review:



A sinkhole developed in the rear of the station that needed repair and renovation. At the same time that work was being done, it was decided to pave the roadway.



After years of dust when it is dry and mud when it is wet, the Community Center finally has a paved road and additional handicapped parking. This much needed improvement will greatly enhance the Center's usage.

While the Community Center paving was being done, KDL Contractors were asked to put down a 60' by 100' basketball pad. Baskets will be placed in the middle of each side, allowing four different three-on-three games to be played at once. It has been many years that both young people and adults have been asking for this project.



Grow Houses Raided In Spring Lake

On the quiet and calm morning of May 15, members of a multijurisdictional drug task force raided 14 suspected marijuana grow houses in Highlands County. At least 15 people were arrested, with more anticipated. Three of the houses were in Spring Lake: 300 Robinhood Terrace, 625 Spring Lake Blvd. and 6233 Sherman Terrace. With pistols, rifles and shotguns loaded and drawn, dozens of vehicles from the Sheriff's Department, DEA, FDLE and the Okeechobee Police Department drove into our community to clean up the drug ring.

No community is free from this kind of crime and that is why it is so important to be ever watchful of what is going on in your neighborhood and to report suspicious behaviors. The local Neighborhood Watch Committee is always looking for more volunteers and this is a perfect example

of why more people need to get involved. These kind of criminals need to know that Spring Lake is not a good place to try and set up business because their residents are ever watchful.

The District Office actually had some people call to complain that we should be doing more to keep these kinds of people out of Spring Lake. It is up to all of us, as residents, to be watchful. While the District will certainly share any information you wish to convey to us with the proper authorities, we do not police the community.

As Spring Lake grows, crime and mischievous behavior will increase if we are not diligent in watching out for one another. Join the Neighborhood Watch Committee, report your suspicions and let's nip these problems before they get big.

July Calendar

- 3 Men's Golf League
- 4 **Happy Independence Day**
5K Run at Highlands Hammock State Park
- 7-8 Christmas in July Arts and Crafts Show in Sebring
- 10 Men's Golf League
- 11 Yard Waste Pickup
Ladies' Golf League
Women's Social Club, 9:30 a.m.,
Community Center
SLID Budget Hearing, 2 p.m. followed by
regular meeting
- 12 Bridge Club, 6 p.m., Community Center
- 17 Men's Golf League
- 18 Ladies' Golf League
Bunco, 9:30 a.m., Community Center.
Everyone is welcome!
- 21-22 Heartland Triathlon
- 24 Men's Golf League
- 25 Yard Waste Pickup
Ladies' Golf League
Women's Social Club, 9:30 a.m.,
Community Center
- 26 Bridge Club, 6 p.m., Community Center
- 28 **Happy Parent's Day**
- 31 Men's Golf League

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Spring Lake Golf Photo Gallery



Here's Something To Think About ...

- 1) Can you cry under water?
- 2) How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?
- 3) Why do you have to "put your two cents in" ... but it's only a "penny for your thoughts?" Where is that extra penny going to?
- 4) Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes your family picked out to bury you in for eternity?
- 5) Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- 6) What disease did cured ham actually have?
- 7) How is it that we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- 8) Why is it people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?
- 9) If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
- 10) Why are you **in** a movie, but you are **on** television?
- 11) Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?



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Did You Know?

Florida Info Facts:

- Florida is Spanish for flower
- Florida is known as The Sunshine State and has 663 miles of beaches
- Animal: Florida panther
- Beverage: Orange juice
- Bird: Mockingbird
- Capital: Tallahassee
- Flower: Orange blossom
- Fish: Largemouth bass, freshwater; sailfish, saltwater
- Mammal: Manatee, marine; porpoise, saltwater
- Shell: Horse conch
- Tree: Sabal palm

The Cornerstone: (A Memorial Day message from Tony Perkins)

“On Memorial Day, the president of the United States lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Those

who attend the early morning ceremony are able to read the words engraved at the heart of Arlington National Cemetery. There is a Latin inscription, which translated, says: “It is sweet and fitting to die for one’s country.” This idea, which was written before the birth of Jesus, comes from the Roman author Horace. Clearly, patriotism goes a long way back. When the cornerstone for the Tomb was laid in 1915, a time capsule was placed within it containing several interesting items from our nation’s history. Among the things our ancestors thought important for us to remember were a copy of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, a 1915 U.S. flag and Pierre L’Enfant’s map design of the city of Washington, D.C.

But the **first** thing our ancestors placed in that time capsule was the Bible. That’s interesting since the nation had been operating under the Constitution for 125 years by that point, and yet none of our leaders – Democrat or Republican –

thought the inclusion of the Bible would present a constitutional problem. In that Bible, of course, we read Jesus’ words: “Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13). As a Marine myself, I feel a special bond with those who have served. When I served, we learned about the blood- red stripe that runs down the length of a Marine’s trousers, earned in Mexico’s Halls of Montezuma. The Marine officer’s sword, which is called the Mameluke sword, is curved, reminding us that President Thomas Jefferson ordered the Marines to storm the shores of Tripoli. He wanted to stop Muslim terrorists from kidnapping Americans. Sound familiar?

“Where do we get such men?” President Dwight Eisenhower asked in amazement when he saw Army Rangers scaling the heights of Pointe du Hoc in Normandy on D-Day. The truth is, we get them from the same places we’ve always gotten them – from the farms and factories, from villages, suburbs and big cities, and from America’s churches. That is why the Word of God is there, in that cornerstone. And that is why it is the cornerstone of our national life.

Seniors Helping Seniors: (anonymous contributor)

Old folks are worth a fortune: with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs. I have become a lot more social with the passing of years. Some might even call me a frivolous old gal. I am seeing five – count them – **five**, every day. As soon as I awake, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go see John. Then Charley Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Itis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn’t like to stay in one place very long so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day, I’m really tired and glad to go to bed; with Ben Gay. What a life!

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, “I do – all the time. No matter where I am – in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen or down in the basement; I ask myself, **now what am I here after?**”



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