

# Spring Lake BREEZE

Florida . . . the way it should be.

VOL. 2 NO. 3

www.seabreezecommunications.com

MARCH 2008

## World's Top Teams Just Next Door To Spring Lake

It is that time of year again when over 150,000 people will attend the annual 12 Hours of Sebring. This is the 56th edition of the race, and it kicks off the 2008 American Le Mans Series season. Audi, Porsche, Acura, Corvette, Ferrari, Mazda and many other of the world's best sports car racing teams will be competing on Sebring's famous 3.7-mile, 17-turn road course. Gates to the event open on Wednesday, March 12, and remain open 24 hours a day through Saturday's endurance classic.



Last year's Sebring race was highlighted by the closest finish in the 55-year history of the event. The GT2 class battle between Porsche and Ferrari was one of the most

thrilling laps in endurance racing, ending with a margin of victory of only 0.202 seconds after 12 grueling hours of racing. With a record crowd and worldwide television audience watching, the Risi Ferrari with Jaime Melo driving

and the Flying Lizard Porsche with Jorg Bergmeister at the wheel produced an epic battle that ranks as one of the greatest

*World's Top Teams Just Next Door on page 4*

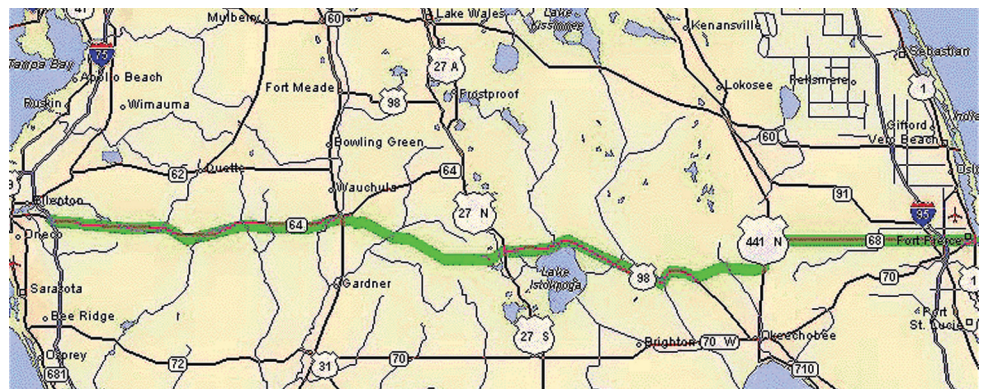
## Cracker Trail Ride

If you saw what looked like a wagon train going through Spring Lake in late February on Rt. 98, you were not imagining things. That was the annual Florida Cracker Trail drive that takes place every year and follows the traditional route taken by the cowboys and cattle in years past, now traced by U.S. 98.

The ride begins at a site just East of Bradenton and ends in Ft. Pierce, a total of 120 miles. Each day's ride is approximately 15 to 20 miles in length. The purpose of the ride is to draw attention to Florida's horse and cattle heritage. The ride travels a highway right-of-way and requires that the drive be at designated points along the way at certain

times of the day.

About 125 riders and 50 nonriders participated in the drive that had actual cattle being driven. The cattle train took six days to get to Ft. Pierce and ended with a parade. It echoes the return trip cattle ranchers had to make after shipping their



For people wanting to support the organization,

memberships are available by going to their Web site and registering at [www.crackertrail.org](http://www.crackertrail.org).

## Capital Improvement Process Begins

At the February Board meeting, the Supervisors began the visioning process for Spring Lake. Many months of data gathering produced a process for the Board to review and begin to prioritize the various projects that need to be addressed.

A Capital Improvement Program, or CIP, is a long-range plan, usually four to six years, which identifies capital projects and equipment purchases, provides a planning schedule and identifies options for financing the plan. The plan provides a link between a local government entity (SLID), its comprehensive and strategic plan, and future annual budgets.

A CIP provides many benefits, including:

- Allows for a systematic evaluation of all potential projects at the same time.
- The ability to stabilize debt and consolidate projects to reduce borrowing costs and to more effectively manage the annual budgets.
- Serves as a public relations and economic development tool.
- Ensures the efficient use and accountability of public funds

Prior to undertaking the development of the CIP, the Board of Supervisors will define the criteria for what kind

*Capital Improvement Process Begins on page 2*

## College Golf Comes To Spring Lake

By Debbie Delaney

For the past nine years, Northern Illinois University golf coach, Pam Tyska, has selected Spring Lake Golf Resort to host the Women's College Golf Team Invitational. Teams from throughout the country spend three days competing for the winner's circle, with this year's event being held March 6 beginning at 11 a.m. and March 7 at 8 a.m.

Teams that have competed include: Northern Illinois, Old Dominion, Lynn University, SMU, San Diego State, Florida Atlantic, Georgetown, Florida Gulf State, Texas A&M, Northern Iowa, Pennsylvania, Yale, Pepperdine,



*College Golf Comes To Spring Lake on page 4*

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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  
 Bill Lawens

**District Staff:**

Joe DeCerro 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.**

### Capital Improvement Process Begins from page 1

of projects or equipment are to be included and organize a process for developing the plan. What is defined as a capital project or capital purchase may vary, and it was determined that they should be tangible items that have a life expectancy greater than one year.

The Board will forecast where it believes it will face future demands and growth, which will involve an inventory of existing facilities, infrastructure and equipment. In addition, the Board of Supervisors will develop basic policies for implementing the plan.

There are some specific steps that will be followed for success:

- The Board establishes a CIP process and appoints a Chairperson
- Takes inventory of existing capital assets, with emphasis on the water plant
- Evaluates previously approved, unimplemented or incomplete projects
- Assesses financial capacity
- Solicits, compiles and evaluates new project requests
- Prioritizes projects
- Develops a financial plan
- Adopts a CIP
- Monitors and manages approved projects within the CIP
- Updates existing and ongoing CIP.

Over the years numerous projects and activities have been planned and discussed by prior Boards. In 1999 a \$1 million community center project was ready to be let out to bid when the lawsuit on the pump station was initiated and the project had to come to a halt. Recent CIP projects involved: new lot mowing equipment, renovated tennis courts, playground and basketball court in Pine Breeze park, District Office

becoming an emergency operations center with installation of a building generator and other equipment, several vehicles and paving at the community center and pump station.

Projects that are under consideration and are being prioritized by the Board include, but are not limited to:

- New water retention and storage areas
- De-silting of canals and lakes
- General cleaning of canals
- Pump station controls upgrade
- Water plant upgrades and development
- Community Center
- Fire Station
- Bicycle/walking trails
- Park enhancements
- Arbuckle Creek Park marina
- Options for 14 acres of land east of District Office SLID owns
- Equipment and vehicles
- Lighting and signage
- Youth center
- Security and safety.

The February meeting began the first of many discussions regarding the future projects to be conducted in Spring Lake. In the near future a formal PowerPoint presentation will be produced that can be shared with community groups, clubs and associations in our community to ensure proper communication and understanding of what the Board of Supervisors are discussing.

Additionally, residents may send the Board their own comments on the above projects or recommend others. You can e-mail, fax or write to the District.

E-mail: mail@springlakeimprovement.com

Fax: (863) 655-4430

Mail: 115 Spring Lake Blvd., Sebring, FL 33876

## Editorial Advisory Staff Meets

On Friday, Feb. 1, a group of residents (see picture) met at the District Office to discuss the future of *The Breeze*. After one year of publication, the District wanted to bring together a representative group of people who could provide input into how the paper could be improved. The group was charged with discussing articles, layout, columns, features, advertising and inserts, to name a few areas.

The group heard about the process that is currently in place to publish the paper. There are seven written pages, with the full back page always taken by our good friends at Highlands Independent Bank. Each issue has approximately 5,000 words and may contain up to 20 pictures. There are copy deadlines and delivery dates for throughout the year. The paper is published in Fort Myers and mailed to all residents from that location.

Advertising is the most difficult aspect of the paper because we do not have someone who "beats the bushes" for ads. We depend on people contacting us or several times throughout the year we may send an e-mail to advertisers that we see in other publications, hoping they might want to advertise in our paper.

Here is a summary of what the group brainstormed:

- A classified section should be offered in the paper for people to submit villa and home sales, jobs, garage sales, etc. The cost should be minimal, probably around \$10 for up to a certain number of words.
- Homeowners and Property Associations should be



Back Row (from left): Laura Poe, Dan Snyder, Gail Whiting. Front Row (from left): Sally Rice, Cal Swisher Sr., Debbie Delaney.

offered a monthly space for news that affects their areas.

- More articles on clubs, hobbies, golf, tennis and fishing.
  - Freshen the Masthead that appears on the front page.
- Two members of the group volunteered to work on this project and we hope to have a new look in a few months.
- Yard of the Month picture and Pet of the Month picture.
  - People stories; some residents have very interesting pasts that could be shared.
  - A calendar as an insert, with business card advertising surrounding it. Local professionals could advertise at a lower rate, approximately \$300 per year.

In the upcoming months, these ideas will be included in *The Breeze*. If you have any ideas of your own, please share them with us. This is your paper.



**Publisher** Terrence C. Reid  
**Production Director** Jacquelyn Reid  
**Sales Department**  
**Sales Manager** Lisa E. Hartford  
 Teresa (Teri) Brady  
 Al Ullio  
**Director Of Mailing Operations**  
 Sherry Whalon  
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# Hydrilla A Continuing Problem

Hydrilla blocks waterways, and almost 80 percent of its mass is in the upper two feet of the water column, producing a dense canopy near the water surface. This exotic pest plant shades out native submersed plant species, reduces oxygen levels and degrades water quality. The two main deterrents to the spread of hydrilla are Grass Carp and chemicals, both of which are used by the District. Unfortunately, warm weather and lack of rain has caused the hydrilla to gain mass in many areas of the District canals. When this occurs, manual

extraction in critical areas must be used.

Hydrilla can grow an inch or more per day and can be found in all the canals and ponds throughout Spring Lake. Large masses of hydrilla can often be seen moving from one part of the canal system to another, depending on the flow of water.

District personnel have taken an aggressive approach with hydrilla with spraying or extraction being done on a continuing basis. The County receives funding from the

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to remove hydrilla from the lake and Arbuckle Creek because they have public access and are navigable. Spring Lake canals are not public access, thus responsibility falls on the District.

The District will be working closer with the DEP as a result of the opening of a new DEP office in Sebring. Previously we had to work with the Bartow office. Control of hydrilla and other plants that block our canals is a daily battle.



Hydrilla dries out on the banks prior to being brought to the burn pile.



Foreman Randy Nelson operates the backhoe and Assistant Foreman Corey Jones extracts the hydrilla.

# Recycle Bins To Remain

After many months of trying to find a new location for the recycle bins, the end result is that they will stay right where they are!

Residents who are active in recycling will notice that the bins have been moved more toward the tennis courts to allow people to safely use the walkway to the park and restrooms. The area has been cleaned up and we will continue to monitor the situation. Ever since the basketball court and playground have been put in, the graffiti and vandalism to the bins has stopped. This led the District to work with the County and make some minor adjustments. For those who don't recycle, you may want to consider using this valuable service to our community.



Bill Maine has cleaned up the area and planted palms and shrubs.

## Requesting Streetlight Repairs

Progress Energy has instituted an electronic request for streetlight repairs that can be accessed by anyone who wants to report a streetlight that has burned out. This is the same site that the Improvement District will be using, so it will save time by going to the form on your own.

To access the repair form, simply go to [www.progress-energy.com](http://www.progress-energy.com) and click on Request Streetlight Repair.

A lighted community is a safer community. Please help by identifying broken lights and report them to Progress Energy.



**\$5**

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## Gazebo Restrooms Open



The Gazebo restrooms have been repaired and cleaned and are now available for public use. People using the park, playground, tennis courts or basketball courts no longer have to hope someone is in the Community Center. The restrooms, on the park side of the Gazebo, are open at all times.

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World's Top Teams Just Next Door from page 1



laps in racing history.

And all of this is in the back yard of Spring Lake!

Over the years, homeowners and villa owners have rented their properties to race teams and corporate officials at rates that compare to The Masters, Super Bowl, Indy 500 and other major events. With race fans and revelers staying at the track, our community may experience people driving around trying to find their rental property, but serious problems very seldom occur.

If you are looking for a fun week of racing events and additional information, go to their official Web site at [www.sebringraceway.com](http://www.sebringraceway.com).

## The Sandhill Crane

It seems wherever you go in Spring Lake, Sandhill Cranes are all over the community. They walk around, cross the streets, travel the golf fairways and enter our yards as if the land is theirs! Many people love the beauty and stature of these birds, and others view them as a nuisance. Whatever your opinion, no one can doubt the wonderful feeling you get about nature when the adults are walking around with their little babies after birth. It is really a sight to behold.

The Sandhill Crane is a large crane of North America and northeastern Siberia. They have the longest fossil history of any bird, with a 10 million-year-old specimen having been found whose structure is identical to the modern Crane.

Adults are gray; they have a red forehead, white cheeks and a long dark pointed bill. They have long legs, which trail behind in flight and a long neck that is kept straight in flight. Immature birds have reddish brown upper parts and gray under parts.

Size varies, but the average Sandhill Crane male weighs nine pounds, is 43 inches long and has a wingspan of six feet. Their breeding habitat is marshes and bogs. They nest in marsh vegetation or on the ground close to water. The female lays two eggs on a mound of vegetation. Cranes mate for life; both parents feed the young, called Colts, who quickly learn to feed themselves. The Sandhill Crane does not breed until it is 2 to 7 years old. It can live up to 25 years in the wild, and twice that long in captivity. Mated pairs stay together year-round.

These birds forage while walking in shallow water or in fields, usually probing their bills in the ground; the strength of their bills can make a mess of any lawn or golf course. They are omnivorous, eating insects, aquatic plants and animals, rodents, seeds and berries. Outside of the nesting season they forage in large flocks. The Sandhill Crane frequently gives a loud trumpeting call that suggests a French



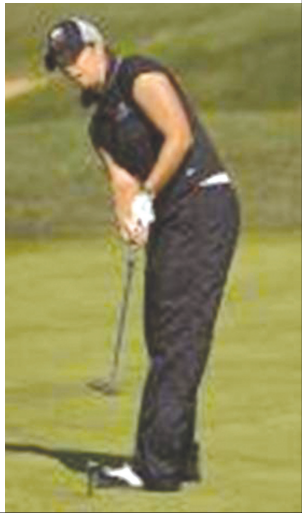
style "r" rolled in the throat.

The Sandhill Crane, like all of Mother Nature, was in Spring Lake well before any of us ever arrived. Living together in harmony is beneficial for all of us.

### College Golf Comes To Spring Lake from page 1

Washington, Oregon, Stanford, to name a few.

Spring Lake Golf Resort members and villa guests volunteer to assist by acting as marshals, spotters and providing transportation between holes.

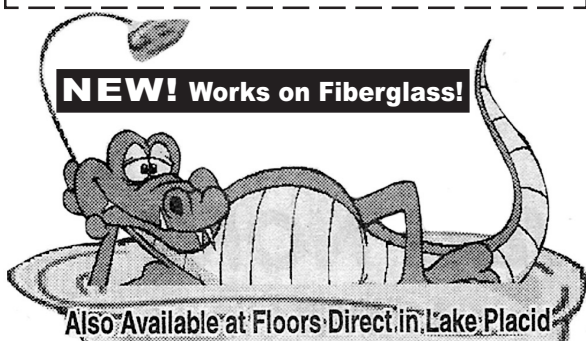


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# Gators Still On The Prowl

Alligators are still roaming our canal system and several are over 10 feet in length, as the pictures below show. The extraction of gators from District canals is regulated and controlled by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. If you are aware of any nuisance gators, you should contact the District Office at 655-1715 and we will arrange for extraction. Chris Lusby is the alligator control program director and is located in Lake Placid; he has worked the Spring Lake canals for several years.

The gators hurt our District economically in that they eat the Grass Carp that we purchase and release in the canals to help control hydrilla growth. The fish are only 10 to 12 inches when released and are easy prey for the gators. Grass Carp put into the canals six months ago are already close to 20 inches and make slower moving targets for the gators.

The pictures show Trapper Chris Lusby removing a 10-foot gator from behind the Country Club Villas canal.



Guys are as follows: Gator Trapper Tan Cap is Chris Lusby, Field Foreman Light Blue Work Shirt is Randy Nelson, and Black T-Shirt is Mark DeVries of Lake Orion, MI who is the son of residents Terry and Judy DeVries.

## Service Counter

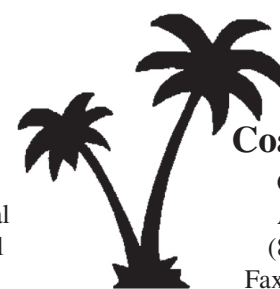


Office Manager Gladys Eaglen welcomes visitor, Al Iovinelli, from Schenectady, N.Y. Al is renting a villa for the month and plans on returning to Spring Lake again. Al is the proud owner of the historical Uncle Bens Tavern in the Stockade area of Schenectady. He was joined on his visit by Tony Galka and Porky Fennicks.

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## New Facility Underway

In 1971, a garage and small office was constructed to house the one truck and two employees the District had at the time. In all the years that vehicles and equipment have been added, as well as personnel, the same facility has been used. Mold, leaks, lack of space and no cover for vehicles and equipment led the Board of Supervisors to approve a new facility that will house both the Water Department and the Field Maintenance Department under one roof. The 60- x 125-foot building will sit behind the Comcast satellite dishes, directly across from the current facility. Work is underway and it is anticipated that the relocation will take place in late April or early May.



Close to 40 loads of sand were brought to the site for a solid foundation.



Bulldozer grades the foundation.

## Bits And Pieces

- Spring Lake Presbyterian Church at 5887 U.S. 98 will hold its annual flea market March 8 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clothing, housewares, books, toys, jewelry, linens and other items too numerous to mention will be available. A bake sale and lunch items make this a nice Saturday event. All proceeds go to the Women's Missions.

- Thank you to all the groups and clubs that assisted the District at the Community Center by cleaning out all the storage areas. It looks so much better and everyone involved took the task seriously and acted promptly. Again, thank you very much.

- Portions of Duane Palmer Boulevard won't have bottles, cans or paper for too long thanks to Spring Lake resident and former District Supervisor, Joe Smith. During his daily morning walks he can be seen picking up all sorts of trash left behind by thoughtless people who think the streets are their personal garbage bags. Thanks to Joe and others who help pick up what the litterbugs leave behind.

- The District received a nice note from Jean Kennedy and the Oak Leaf Homeowners' Association for helping them bring tree trimmings and brush to the burn pile. Kennedy commented on the quick response to her request. Thanks from the District to the Association for the cleanup they did in their area.

- Webmaster Josh Little handles monitoring our Web site for any problems. A recent report submitted to the District shows the site did not experience any down time for 153 consecutive days. Visit the site by going to [www.springlakeimprovement.com](http://www.springlakeimprovement.com).

- The family of Phyllis Keniston would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to all who made memorial donations to St. Jude Research Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Stetson, Warner, Dalian, Leonard, Van, Berg, Frutchey, Rice, Nichols, Rinehart, Whitehead, Rose, Brochu, Frederick, Docherty, Leo Lamoureux and the Waterway Patio Homes Association.

- As a result of an eagles' nest in Village I park, several regulatory agencies must review the plans we have to fix up the park to ensure the nest or birds are not endangered. We expect work to begin in the park by March.

- When all of us look at our property tax bills, we see that the largest percent goes to the School District. Here is a disturbing fact: The Kiplinger Letter notes the United States ranks 21st in science and 25th in math among developed nations. The high school dropout rate is stuck at 30 percent to 50 percent for minorities. Many students who do graduate lack the skills they will need to succeed in college or the workplace. *The Breeze* would like to offer a tip to Highlands County. Hold school principals to the same scrutiny they do coaches. When a coach has a losing record they get fired, like in Avon Park; but the high school has remained at the D level four years!

- MetLife reports millions of Americans are providing care to family members. The report revealed over 44 million,

or an estimated 21 percent of all U.S. households provide care for an adult family member of friend age 18 and older. With this kind of data we should be hearing Presidential candidates offering some opinion. The most startling figure is the total estimated cost to employers of full-time employees who are caregivers and have absenteeism, work interruptions, unpaid leave, replacing employees, supervisor time and other costs total \$33.6 billion!

- Several interesting Web sites you may want to explore. Homeowners who like to do their own work around the house would enjoy [www.masterhandyman.com](http://www.masterhandyman.com). For those of you who like statistics, check out [www.factfinder.census.gov/home](http://www.factfinder.census.gov/home).

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## Lake Istokpoga News



It is important for all Spring Lake residents to be aware of what is happening on the Lake that forms the southern border of our community. The Friends of Istokpoga do a wonderful job in protecting the environmental interests of the Lake and preserving the fishing and boating that people enjoy.

You can go to their Web site for more information at [www.istokpoga.org](http://www.istokpoga.org).

Here are a few highlights from their February Newswire:

- South Florida Water Management District is asking for a deviation in the Lake level and the Association is **against** any change to the water regulation schedule.

- Hydrilla spraying will be taking place on the Lake in late February, early March.

- South Florida Water Management District has an ongoing project of assessing the water quality of the Arbuckle Creek watershed, trying to track down areas that contribute the most phosphorous.

- The general membership meeting took place on February 14 and members of the Board of Directors were elected. Results will be posted in next month's *Breeze*.



# Groundhog Day In Spring Lake

Groundhog Day, February 2, is a popular tradition in the United States and represents a legend that traverses centuries. It is the day that the Groundhog comes out of his hole after a long winter sleep to look for his shadow. If he sees it, he regards it as an omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to his hole. If the day is cloudy and shadowless, he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground.

Pennsylvania's earliest settlers were Germans and they found Groundhogs all over the state in huge numbers. They determined that the Groundhog resembled the European hedgehog, a most intelligent and sensible animal; therefore they decided that if the sun did appear on February 2, so wise an animal as the Groundhog would see its shadow and hurry back to its underground home for six more weeks.

The *Punxsutawney Spirit* newspaper printed the news of the first observance of Groundhog Day on February 2, 1886. Since that time this tradition has spawned all kinds of celebrations, events, contests, and get-togethers. The famous Groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, is known by all.

One of those celebrations occurs right here in Spring Lake. Wayne and Daisy Wilkins hosted the Second Annual Traditional Groundhog Day celebration for friends and neighbors from Pennsylvania; 24 people attended the breakfast event and they were treated to: sausage and eggs,



These honorary groundhogs saw plenty of shadows at their get-together but six more weeks of winter doesn't really matter when you are in Spring Lake!

pancakes, fruit cups, orange juice and coffee. Participants joining Wayne and Daisy were: Annie and Ira McLain, Judy Marquardt, John and Joanne Koller, Jerry and Grace Gerhart, John and Nancy Thomas, Sally and Ron Rice, Debbie Docherty, Dave and Maxine Everett, Gail and Harry Porter, Marcella and Dave Petruzzi, Cal Swisher and Flo Lambert.

In 1995 Phil appeared on the *Oprah* show, and in 2001 his prediction was shown live on the Jumbo Tron in Times Square. What will the Wilkins group have planned for '09?

# Moose Lodge There To Help

Christmas '07 might be history to most of us, but for 30 families in the Florida area the gift of giving will be remembered daily.

Sebring Moose Lodge #2259, located in Spring Lake on Rt. 98, conducted a food drive on behalf of the less fortunate families. Spring Lake residents donated three pickup truckloads of canned and dry goods to deliver. The Lodge was also able to provide boxes of perishable food and gift cards.

The food drive has been an annual project organized by a group of Spring Lake residents who are members of the Moose Lodge. The following people made this program a huge success: Mike Rose, Charlie Keniston, Ken Poe, George Dalian, Bob Berg, Charlie McWilliams, Bud Frutchey, Lou Price, Ray Normandin, Ron Rice, Dave Docherty and Bill Johnson.



# District Starting E-Mail Data Base

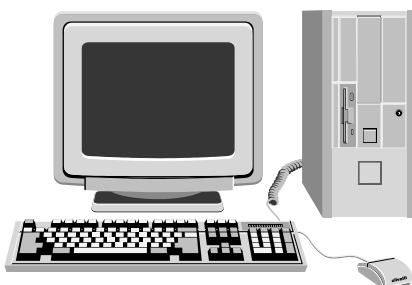
There have been several situations that have arisen in the past month that could have been avoided if we had e-mail addresses for our residents. In one situation, water at the Country Club Villas had to be shut off on two separate occasions. Trying to get the word out was difficult, and people were constantly calling the District Office – rightfully so.

In the future, the District would be able to notify people of not only water being turned off but any boil orders, emergency situations or other items that would be important for you to know that can't wait until the next issue of *The Breeze* or be put on the Web site.

This is strictly voluntary and the information will **not** be used by anyone other than the Improvement District.

If you want to be part of this database, send an e-mail to the Improvement District: [mail@springlakeimprovement.com](mailto:mail@springlakeimprovement.com). Along with your e-mail be sure that your names are included so you can be properly identified; this is required.

Thank you in advance for helping us be more responsive to your needs and providing better service to our residents.



# District Staff Profile

John Laiosa was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and purchased a home in Spring Lake in 1985 when he moved here from Staten Island. He joined the Air Force in 1973 as a security police K-9, guarding nuclear weapons and aircraft. He served until 1977 with an honorable discharge.

While stationed in Korea, John met a wonderful woman, Jan, and they have been happily married for 31 years and have a 27-year-old daughter, Michelle.

Prior to being hired by the District six years ago, John worked in construction, was an over-the-road truck driver, did logging and was a general jack-of-all-trades. Since working for Spring Lake, John has been involved in all aspects of our Field Maintenance Department and has experience operating all District vehicles. He currently has direct responsibility for lot mowing in Villages II and V and assists other lot mowers wherever needed. John has also had duties at the pump station.

John can often be seen riding his motorcycle and he enjoys hunting, fishing and woodcarving.



# Walkers And Bikers On The Increase

With the quiet and serene environment of Spring Lake, more residents seem to be taking advantage of walking and bicycling. There has been a substantial increase in the numbers and not everyone understands the "rules of the road."



Walkers should be **facing** traffic and people with bicycles should be riding in the same direction as other vehicles. Single file is the safest mode and separate yourself as much as possible from oncoming traffic.

If you are walking or biking at night, be sure to have proper lights and reflective gear. You cannot expect an oncoming vehicle to see you if visibility is bad and you have not protected yourself.

Two great Web sites to learn more about this are at [www.walking.about.com](http://www.walking.about.com) and [www.bikemiamivalley.org](http://www.bikemiamivalley.org).

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View all of these at [www.dellrealty.net](http://www.dellrealty.net)

**Villas For Sale**

MLS #	ADDRESS	PRICE
198998	2102 Villaway East	\$104,500
194557	1202 Villaway West	\$114,900
197325	1103 Villaway West	\$119,900
197571	1310 Villaway West	\$124,900
192670	207 Villaway East	\$129,900
194561	303 Villaway East	\$139,500

**Jamie Solis**  
Spring Lake, Lake Istokpoga & Lorida Specialist  
**863-835-1611**

**MLS # 199211**  
Corner lot 2BR/2BA with glass enclosed rear porch, second garage, cathedral ceilings, new appliances in '01, new roof in '05, new tile in '01.  
**\$168,900.**



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Sebring  
386-1900

**Avon Park**

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Avon Park  
453-6400

**Sun 'n Lake**

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Sebring  
314-9797

**Lake Placid**

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Lake Placid  
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