



County Support Appreciated

The cooperative relationship that has been taking place between key Highlands County Departments and Spring Lake has proven to be most beneficial for our community. Road and Bridge Superintendent Kyle Green and Foreman Jack Bennett have been overseeing paving repairs on Ryan, Dogwood and Thunder; new culverts and repairs have been made on Lakeview, Floral and Spring Lake Boulevard; and assistance with several other projects have occurred throughout the community. County Engineer Ramon Gavarette and Assistant County Engineer Elius Nortelus have been working with Supervisor Ken Poe since November on drainage issues and developing a plan for the future.



Emergency Management Director Bill Nichols has been

assisting Spring Lake with our mitigation initiatives and reimbursements from FEMA as a result of Tropical Storm *Fay*, as well as providing valuable information on emergency preparedness. Susan BuChans, County Planner, has also assisted the District in preparing all of our local initiatives for the mitigation strategy group that provides funding thru FEMA.

Assistant County Administrator June Fisher, along with Parks and Recreation Director Vicki Pontius, are working with the District on a major project that could possibly impact Arbuckle Creek Park and developing a mitigation park in Village IX, west of Thunder Road to the creek.

County Support Appreciated on page 2

Board News

The Spring Lake Improvement District Board of Supervisors met on Wednesday, April 15, 3:00 p.m. at the Community Center. A summary of that meeting follows:

- Attorney Bill Nielander informed Supervisors that he had received a letter of opinion from the State Attorney General notifying the Board that the District may purchase any land needed for the water control plan, but could NOT purchase a golf course business. The letter is on file and available for residents to read via public records request.

- District Engineer Gene Schriener updated the Board on the water control plan and presented a map of nearly 80 acres that could be deeded over to the District by the golf course owner, Mike Tellschow, in lieu of any significant land purchase. The Board directed Attorney Bill Nielander, Chairman Leon Van, and Manager Joe DeCerbo to meet

with Mr. Tellschow and investigate the option further.

- Offers to sell property to the District for the water control plan were received from three owners; the land represents nearly 100 acres. The Board instructed the Engineer to determine the relevance of this land for water control and quality purposes both now and for the future, and to provide a report to the Board for its May meeting.

- The Board approved the conceptual permit contract and District Engineer Gene Schriener will begin working with South Florida Water Management to develop the timetable for the various water control projects.

- The District has completed what is known as a "Request For Inclusion" regarding the distribution of the Federal economic stimulus monies that are being administered in Florida by the State Department of

Environmental Protection. We have been assigned a project coordinator who is working with the Manager and Engineer in developing a proposal. These funds are part of the State Revolving Fund program and are primarily a loan with interest rates ranging from 0 percent to 3.5 percent. The funds can only be used for water control plans that have an environmental impact (water quality).

- The five key projects outlined in the water control plan were approved by the Local Mitigation Strategy Committee and now qualify for any funds that become available due to storms, emergencies or disasters. The funds are received by the County and then passed thru to Spring Lake.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 13, 3:00, at the Community Center.

Golf News

Third Annual Jim McFarling Memorial Tournament:

Over 150 golfers and guests attended the event held at Spring Lake Golf Resort, coordinated by premier organizer John Delaney and his team of volunteers. This tournament provides scholarship money to a participant in the Highlands County Sertoma Junior Tour. Andy Kesling, golf professional at Sun 'n Lake and Director of the Tour, coordinated the awarding of the scholarship. The first recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship went to Roben Griffin, who now is attending Edison College in Fort Myers. In an act of generosity, all the winning teams returned their prize money back to the scholarship fund.

Demo Day At Driving Range:

Director of Golf, Shane Riley, and Golf USA Owner, John Caspare, coordinated a successful event that attracted over 100 people. Participants got to hit clubs from Adams Golf, Calloway, Cleveland and Tour Edge. All brands had sales representatives available to promote their products and answer questions.

Bagger Vance Event:

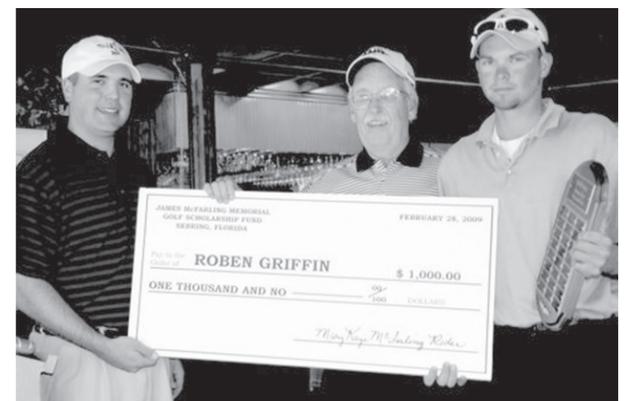
The fifth annual gathering of golfers from around the country to compete against a team from our community has been set for Dec. 11-13. Organizers of the event will be

meeting in August to select a recipient of the charitable funds that are raised annually by the event. Team National will be defending their title against the local Team Florida.

Golf Associations:

If you enjoy playing golf but don't have a regular playing partner, consider joining the Spring Lake Men's or Women's Golf Associations. The men play on Tuesday and Thursday morning, and the women play on Wednesday morning. For information on joining either group, call the Pro Shop at 655-1276 or stop by.

Golf News on page 2



District In The Hunt For Funding

You read and hear about it every day in the newspapers and the media: stimulus monies available for "shovel-ready" projects that create or maintain jobs. Through a myriad of federal and state agencies, information flows on a daily basis to all the local units of government on how to apply and

access funding. The processes are long and involved, and in some cases the instructions on how to apply are over a 100 pages! While the money may have increased so has the bureaucracy and the time it takes to navigate through the rules and regulations, submit a letter of intent to apply, fill out the applications, attach the proposals, and being vigilant in continually calling the

people who have been assigned to your project and are guiding you through the process.

The Spring Lake Improvement District has never been an active player in the world of grants and funding opportunities, so agencies and their project leaders have to be brought up to date on what is needed in our community. Networking, collaborating, meeting with agency directors and attending numerous functions are all part of the process. Over the last several years Spring Lake has positioned itself to begin a very proactive approach in taking advantage of financial opportunities.



District In The Hunt For Funding on page 2

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District In The Hunt For Funding from page 1

There are six primary initiatives that are being presented to the various funding sources: canal restoration; rehabilitation of water control structures; construction of storm-water surface water bodies; rehabilitation of levees; upgrading the pump station; and a new community center. All but the last of these projects is tied in to the updated water control plan and as a result of the extensive study that was conducted by Craig A. Smith Engineering (see March '09 issue of the *Breeze*; we have all the data we need for each of the proposals. A very strong emphasis is being put on **water quality** by most of the funding sources, an issue that the District Board continues to address.

Here are some of the agencies we are currently working with in the pursuit of funds:

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Florida DEP Nonpoint Source Management Section
- Highlands County Local Mitigation Strategy Group
- Florida Association of Special Districts
- Florida Division of Emergency Management; Pre-Disaster Mitigation
- Florida Community Trust
- Legislative earmarks through State Rep. Denise Grimsley
- Florida Recreational Development
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Florida State Revolving Fund.

County Support Appreciated from page 1



Other projects between the District and the County are ongoing and frequently involve Code Enforcement Officer April Hartseil, Fire Services Director Tim Eures, Lakes Management Director Clell Ford and his assistant Erin McCarta, and Captain Randy LaBelle of the Sheriff's Department.

County Administrator Mike Wright schedules a monthly luncheon meeting to keep the lines of communication open between the governing units and to discuss problems, concerns and ideas we may have. The meeting is attended by the managers of Spring Lake, Sun 'n Lake, Sebring, Avon



Park and Lake Placid.

In addition to working with County staff, every Highlands County Commissioner has personally visited Spring Lake in the last six months to become better aware of the challenges we have for the future and the need for continued County assistance. Led by Board Chairperson, Barbara Stewart, and our local representative, Edgar Stokes, the Commissioners have been very supportive and encouraging to County staff and their efforts in Spring Lake. We are very grateful for the relationship we have cultivated.

Golf News from page 1



New Water Superintendent

The Spring Lake Improvement District is proud to announce the hiring of Clay Shrum as the new Water Superintendent for Spring Lake. Clay has close to 25 years experience in the water and wastewater utilities field and is a welcome addition to our staff.



Clay is a 1981 graduate of Sebring High School and began his career in 1985 as the certified plant operator for the Sebring Utilities Commission. From there he went on to be a water and wastewater vocational instructor for the state of Florida; Superintendent of Public Works for the town of Zolfo Springs; Utilities Director for Lake Placid; Utilities Service Contractor in Altamonte Springs, Fla.; and since 1997 has been with the

Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA).

During his tenure with the FRWA, Clay assisted hundreds of water treatment systems in every phase of operation, maintenance, compliance and management. He conducted training classes on DEP rules and industry issues, applied and obtained grants and loans from the State Revolving Fund Program, improved financial management practices and conducted long-range plans for a number of communities. Clay has been involved in a number of Spring Lake projects over the years, as the territory he covered for FRWA included our community. He holds the highest levels of certification in the industry with a Florida Class A Water Plant Operator License, a Class C Wastewater Plant Operator's License, a Class C Water Distribution License, and a Class C Wastewater Collection License. He has had extensive continuing education courses thru the Florida Water and Pollution Control Operators Association, American Water Works Association and FRWA, to name a few.

Clay's primary function will be to continue to ensure and maintain the excellent quality and safety of our water system throughout the District, ensure compliance with all regulatory agencies, and oversee all Water Department operations.

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Residents Provide Valuable Information

District Supervisor Bill Lawens and his working group of community volunteers mailed Community Development Questionnaires to all Spring Lake residents, giving every person an opportunity to provide input into potential future projects. The questionnaires were included in several past issues of the *Breeze*, distributed at community functions, and a table was set up at the annual community picnic. Over 30 percent of our residents filled out the surveys, and resident John Delaney tracked the results and prepared the report for the working group.

The District will be using this data not only for internal use, but to also share with outside entities that might be interested in coming to Spring Lake; the data points out levels of interest that our residents have for various projects and is valuable information for perspective businesses wanting to locate in Spring Lake. The District is empowered by Florida Statutes to engage in drainage, parks and recreation and a water department, so a number of these projects will have to go to other governmental and private sources for funding



and completion; the end result making Spring Lake a better place to live.

The surveys asked residents to gauge a project based on whether they felt it was: (1) Extremely important (2) very important (3) somewhat important (4) not very important, or (5) not at all important.

	1	2	3	4	5
Community Center	116	152	162	39	29
Youth Center	75	117	146	87	66
Upgraded Parks	81	150	195	54	18
Arbuckle Park					
Boat Ramp	48	76	184	103	77
Fire and EMS Station	271	149	47	18	10
Increased Police Patrol	268	149	61	14	6
Bark Park	20	52	153	116	142
Bike & Walking Paths	81	137	171	69	38
Community Pool	88	69	130	100	106
YMCA or similar programs	48	93	172	114	74
Supplemental grants	177	157	102	27	28
Banking services	147	137	131	52	30
Gas station	160	157	99	53	30
Grocery store	215	148	91	27	18
Barber, salon, etc.	105	127	166	66	32

New Flood Maps Affect Insurance Rates

The United States has thousands of miles of levee systems, usually earthen embankments designed and constructed in accordance with engineering practices to contain, control, or divert the flow of water to provide some level of protection from flooding. The nearly three miles of levees in Spring Lake were constructed in the mid-'60s along Arbuckle Creek on the east, and the Davis ranch to the north. As a result of this levee being in place, Spring Lake has not been considered a flood plain, and insurance rates have been at a minimum since the last flood map that was published in 1985.

As a result of *Hurricane Katrina* and the failure of the New Orleans levee system, FEMA launched a new mapping process. As the Federal agency responsible for administering the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), FEMA identifies flood hazards, assesses flood risks, and provides appropriate flood

hazard and risk information to communities nationwide. This information is provided to communities in the form of maps, called Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). FEMA has an effort underway, called Flood Map Modernization, to update and modernize the existing FIRMs for most of the United States.

In September of '08 FEMA representatives contacted District staff to notify them that the Spring Lake levees would have to be inspected, maintenance programs outlined, and a certification of the levee procured. This could become a very expensive project, but failure to comply with FEMA regulations could result in the levee not being certified, Spring Lake appears on the new flood maps as a flood zone, and insurance rates skyrocket! In spite of the fact that this is an **unfunded mandate** the District is moving forward and cooperating with FEMA. The Spring Lake levee needs to be

fully certified by 2012, and the Board of Supervisors approved the plan that was developed by FEMA to ensure Spring Lake will **not** be listed as a flood plain. If, however, the levee is neglected and we do not perform the necessary repairs and maintenance, Spring Lake's designation on the flood maps would change to a flood plain.

When the mapping process for the entire state of Florida is completed, up to date, Internet accessible data will be available to everyone. Public meetings on the work that has been done in Highlands County will be conducted in the fall, preliminary maps will be reviewed through June of 2010, and the new Flood Maps will be available by 2012. For more information on this program, you can go to the FEMA Web site and search the flood mapping section at www.fema.gov or www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/lv_fpm.shtm.

Music Of A Generation

When World War II ended in 1945 the country lost itself in celebration, and for good reason. One of the most painful and tragic periods in American history had come to a victorious close. But the joy was short lived. Almost immediately, the nation began to grapple with the escalating of the Cold War and a world growing ever more complex. Americans longed to return to a simpler time; a yearning that was reflected in the songs they embraced. The most



obvious trend was toward a climate of nostalgia.

The children of the veterans were the product of the so-called baby boom: the explosion of births that followed the soldier's return home after the war. By the late '50s and early '60s, those youngsters were dictating the course of popular music, and they preferred the more raucous sounds of young rebels like Elvis and the Beatles to the clean-cut crooners their parents had danced to. Here is a compilation of the most popular hits of the era; how many of them do you remember?

- 1946 *The Gypsy* by the Ink Spots
- 1947 *Near You* by Francis Craig and his orchestra
- 1948 *Buttons and Bows* by Dinah Shore

- 1949 *Ghost Riders in the Sky* by Vaughn Monroe
- 1950 *The Tennessee Waltz* by Patti Paige
- 1951 *Cry* by Johnnie Ray and the Four Lads
- 1952 *You Belong to Me* by Jo Stafford
- 1953 *Vaya Con Dios* by Les Paul and Mary Ford
- 1954 *Little Things Mean a Lot* by Kittie Kallen
- 1955 *Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White* by Prez Prado
- 1956 *Don't Be Cruel* by Elvis
- 1957 *All Shook Up* by Elvis
- 1958 *At the Hop* by Danny and the Juniors
- 1959 *Mack the Knife* by Bobby Darin
- 1960 *Theme from a Summer Place* by Percy Faith
- 1961 *Tossin and Turnin* by Bobby Lewis
- 1962 *I Can't Stop Loving You* by Ray Charles
- 1963 *Sugar Shack* by Jimmy Gilmer and the Fireballs
- 1964 *I Want to Hold Your Hand* by the Beatles

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Daily Water Use At Home



Water Management Districts across the state of Florida are always marketing ways for residents to conserve water. Most communities continue to see increased costs for consumptive water, and local water plants continue to upgrade and improve their facilities to ensure safe drinking water for the future; all of which cost more money.

Here are some examples of how much water is used to perform standard and daily functions in your home. It is easy to see how the number of gallons you use, and have to pay for, are "going down the drain!"

Garbage disposal	4 gallons per minute
Dishwasher	12 gallons per load
Toilet flushing	5 gallons per flush
Bathing	36 gallons (full tub)
Laundry	43 gallons per load
Brushing teeth	4 gallons per minute
Washing hands	4 gallons per minute
Washing dishes by hand	4 gallons per minute
Shower	5 gallons per minute
Yard watering with hose	9 gallons per minute

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