



Spring Lake BREEZE

Florida . . . the way it should be.

VOL. 2 NO. 12

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DECEMBER 2008



Have A Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!



Sharing Christmas

By Pastor Katie Treadway

I am a native Floridian who never saw snow until I was 13 years old. My Holidays tended to include a drive through town on Christmas Eve with the windows open so we could look at the large bulb lights on palm trees, and the out of place Santa's strategically put on roofs next to non-existent chimneys. On Christmas morning my father would turn the air conditioner way down and light a fire in our real fireplace just so it would "feel" like Christmas. Floridians must use their imaginations to discover wonder in our mild landscape. We look at air-powered snowmen and icicle shaped lights. We grin every time we see a palm tree lit from the base ... but there is wonder! The wonder that comes from Bing Crosby singing out *White Christmas* and church members sharing the beauty of *Silent Night*. The wonder

comes from the giving of gifts, homemade scarves to be sent to neighbors up north and handmade chocolates. And the wonder comes from the stories we share; stories of a particular Christmas we remember and stories of our faith. Whether we remember the Hanukkah lights or the festive Christmas pageants, we remember something of substance that reminds us of our identities as people who believe.

If you will be alone at Christmas time, I invite you to share the wonder with us at the Spring Lake Presbyterian Church. On December 14 the choir will be leading worship with an Advent/Christmas cantata during the 10 a.m. service, and on December 21 we will celebrate the wonder of the season with Lessons in Carols led by a wonderful visiting musician and me. Our annual candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held on December 24 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We welcome family and friends to enjoy a talented organist from Pensacola who will lead us in the songs of

the season even as we experience the wonder of Christ being born among us.

As you personally experience the wonder of the Christmas Holiday, I invite you to give so others may also experience the wonder. If you are still looking for that special gift for someone who has everything, consider giving a gift in their honor to a charity that does not have everything they need for this season; give to a church, Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots, the Heifer Project, and others. Realize, as you give, that you are contributing to the wonder.

On a final note, on January 17th the Presbyterian Women will be hosting the Doc Decker Memorial Golf Tournament at Spring Lake. All proceeds will benefit the mission of the group; for more information contact the church office at 655-0713.

Merry Christmas and Peace be with you.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The Spring Lake Improvement District Board of Supervisors and Staff extend their best wishes for a very happy Holiday Season and a safe and healthy 2009. The past year has seen a number of positive changes and additions to our community, and monthly readers of *The Breeze* have noted these accomplishments. Operating our District is a **team** effort, and many individuals have played a role:

Board of Supervisors:

Leon Van	Chairman
Marsi Benson	Vice Chair
Bill Lawens	Secretary
Brian Acker	
Ken Poe	



District Staff:

Joe DeCerbo	District Manager
Diane Angell	District Administrator
Randy Nelson	Field Superintendent
Jay Angell	Water Superintendent
Gladys Eaglen	Utilities Administrative Assistant
JR Clarke	Water Technician
James Hicks	Shop Foreman
John Laiosa	Drainage Maintenance
Corey Jones	Drainage Maintenance
Brian Patrick	Field Maintenance
Buddy Heinly	Field Maintenance
Bill Maine	Parks and Facilities
Robert Hicks	Parks and Facilities
Jim Pollard	Seasonal

We urge all residents to stay informed by reading *The Breeze*, periodically checking news and updates on the District Web site, signing up for the Notify Me program via e-mail, or you can call us direct with any questions or concerns. Certainly feel free to stop by the District Office as well.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

A Note Of Appreciation

The following excerpts from a letter received at the District Office were greatly appreciated by staff. The letter was addressed to the District Manager.

Dear Mr. DeCerbo,

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Lakeside Estates Homeowners Association of Village VIII for the cleanup of the drainage areas and the shorelines of the ponds in our community. District leadership efforts, along with the assistance of Highlands County Road and Bridge, are greatly appreciated. Our community has not looked this clean and manicured in a long time.

I would also like to commend two specific members of

your staff who have had the major responsibility for Village VIII. Both Jim Pollard and Brian Patrick have been complimented repeatedly by individual members of our community for their exceptional performance in keeping the drainage areas and shorelines cleaned and trimmed. We are very grateful for the services we receive and the community is fortunate to have such dedicated employees working for the Spring Lake Improvement District.

Our sincere appreciation,
Olivia Rowe, President
Lakeside Estates Homeowners Association

Community Picnic A Success



Congratulations to Picnic Chairman John Schroeder, the Spring Lake Property Association, and all the volunteers and vendors who made this year's Community Picnic a success. Over 300 people attended the event and all had a good time.

At Left: Southern Lifestyle Marketing Director Bea Cooper and Home Health Coordinator Byron Wickham consulted with numerous residents

Community Picnic A Success on page 2

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Community Picnic A Success from page 1



Board News

At the Nov. 12 Landowners meeting, Supervisor Ken Poe was re-elected to a three-year landowner term. Officers for FY '09 are Leon Van, Chairman; Marsi Benson, Vice Chair; and Bill Lawens, Secretary.



The Highlands County Engineer and the Road and Bridge Department are meeting on an ongoing basis with the District to develop a long-range plan for drainage projects that require assistance from the County. Supervisor Poe oversees this initiative, and a number of residents have written the District about specific problems that plague their street, driveway, or lot. While we hope to identify all areas that need assistance, don't hesitate to inform us of any problem you are directly aware of.

The Board continues to look into the District Lot Mowing

Regulations and what changes and revisions need to be identified for the future. Keeping vacant lots mowed and clean are a benefit to all residents, but we have to ensure that the costs are borne by the lot owners, and do not burden the general fund.

In preparation for the next public hearing on water policies, rates, and fees, Florida Rural Water Association did a study of our water operations and has issued several reports and recommendations for the Board of Supervisors to consider. The next public hearing will be in either January or February of '09.

The District has applied for Tropical Storm *Fay* reimbursements from FEMA. This is a national program that allows government entities to be reimbursed for extra expenses due to the storm. We

have requested reimbursement for the extra diesel fuel that was used to pump 317 million gallons of water out of the canals, as well as labor costs for the damaged culverts we assisted the County with. The total amount requested is close to \$10,000.

A workshop is being scheduled prior to the New Business portion of the December 10, 2009 Board of Supervisors meeting. The regular meeting starts at 3 p.m. and the workshop should begin by 3:20 p.m. The Board will be discussing the water control plan that has been approved by South Florida Water Management District, and other implications and strategies that may have to be considered prior to implementation. The regular meeting will reconvene immediately following the workshop.

Signs = Fines!

The Breeze has had numerous articles about the County Ordinance that regulates the display of signs in medians and right-of-ways. It is illegal to place any type of sign whatsoever in these areas, and violators are subject to penalties and fines by the County.



Real Estate signs for individual homes have to be off the County right-of-way and clearly on the homeowner's property. Signs cannot be taped or stapled to trees, light poles, or other structures in these restricted areas. Notices for garage sales, parties, weddings, and meetings, to name a few, are all violations.

As a result of an agreement with the County, District personnel are required to remove any signs, after an attempt is made to contact the violators by phone. Residents who continue to violate this County Ordinance are costing Spring Lake taxpayers money by having District staff spend time removing and disposing illegal signs. Those residents who want to help eliminate this problem can help by calling the County Code Enforcement Department at 402-6915 and ask for Code Enforcement Officer April Hartsell who monitors Spring Lake.

Angel Food Gaining Popularity

Many residents who have come from the North might have been involved in a program that was usually called Market Day. This program was coordinated by a school or church and enabled people to order food products, with a portion of the cost going to the organization as a fundraiser.

There is a program available in this area that is being coordinated by Grace Bible Church in Sebring and is called Angel Food. There are tremendous cost savings available to people who order these frozen meals and pick them up once a month.

As an example, there is a Senior Box that contains 10 seasoned, nutritionally balanced, fully cooked meals that you just heat and serve. Each meal was developed with dietary needs of senior citizens in mind, and contains 3 ounces of protein, a starch, and two vegetables or fruit. Total cost of this complete 10-meal box? \$28!

A Regular Box option includes steaks, chicken, meatloaf, pork chops, hot dogs, and several other items all for only \$30.

There are many other meals and products available, and it is an extremely easy process. If you are interested in looking into this program, visit the Church Web site at www.gbccconnected.org and click on the Angel Food link on the right side, and then click on the menu link. Order forms can be easily downloaded and complete instructions are included. If you do not have access to a computer, simply stop by the Grace Bible Church on Thunderbird Road and pick up information.

For those of you who know people who are alone and not eating properly, this could be a very nice program to introduce them to. Several of our residents actually purchase the Senior Boxes and give them to a senior in need; what a great gift!

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Beware ... Vampires And Witches



Red Hat Witches Cast A Golf Spell

By Debbie Delaney

Come, Red Hat Witches, mischief is waiting! Take a mulligan, toss a drive, putt with a broom, play witchy golf on a record-cold, windy October day, and cast your magic as you play.

Red Hat Queen Mum Marsenna Rentel and Jean Kennedy coordinated the 2008 Witches Tournament and Luncheon. Twelve laughing witches gathered at the Spring Lake Golf Resort Clubhouse, amusing the morning golfers in their disguises. Pointy hats, skull necklace, a black cat, a bat, and golf carts embellished even more.

Gail Van created the three-witch 18-hole scramble format for the 8:30 a.m. shotgun on the Cougar Trail golf course. Penny's spooky Spring Lake restaurant hosted a wonderful feast afterwards. The witches gathered around a table set with a frothing caldron, goblets of witches brew, and treat-filled pumpkins. Bloodshot eyeball soup started the lunch, followed by fried bat wings and eye of newt was served as the winners were honored. A shocking chocolate desert finished the feast as the full and fatigued witches retired. They all promised to be back again next year.



DOT Meets With District

The updated water control plan that is currently being reviewed by the South Florida Water Management District will guide the Spring Lake drainage program for many years forward. As part of this initiative, which has been outlined previously in this paper, the Florida State Department of Transportation (DOT) will be heavily involved. Spring Lake receives a large percentage of storm water from Rt. 98 and land to the north that flows toward Rt. 98, under the road, and into our canal system on the south side of 98, thus putting an additional strain on our pumping schedule. When Rt. 98 was first constructed over 30 years ago, existing law allowed the DOT to discharge storm water into the nearest drainage area. Current law provides that the DOT must secure their own retention and storage of storm water, thus creating a needed partnership with Spring Lake to accomplish their goals and be part of our water control plan.

As a result of this preliminary meeting, Mr. Every will be the point person for DOT and will work directly with our District Engineering firm, Craig A. Smith & Associates. We welcome the participation of DOT and the cooperation they are giving to this initiative.



DOT District Drainage Engineer Carl Spirio (left) and DOT Project Engineer Mark Every discuss the Spring Lake initiative at the District Office.

Golf Director Named

By John Delaney

One of the biggest differences between golf courses is the quality of their service, the friendliness of the staff, and the ability to easily make tee-times. The appointment of Shane Riley on October 1st as Director of Golf for the Spring Lake Golf Resort was a welcome addition that will benefit our golfing community.

Shane comes to Spring Lake from Saranac, Michigan, and is no stranger to our community. His parents, Charlie and Dixie Riley, have owned a villa for a number of years and have been seasonal visitors during that time. Shane and his family were often seen on our golf courses as he was growing up. His parents also own Morrison Lake Country Club



Director of Golf Shane Riley comes from a golf family.

where Shane has been working for the last 12 golf seasons. He has attended Saginaw Valley State where he played on the varsity golf team. He is now enrolled and completing his undergraduate degree online thru Davenport University.

While completing his education Shane also participated in the Professional Golf Association apprenticeship program, working toward his PGA Certificate. His ability to interact positively with people, his understanding of the total golf business, his understanding and ability to run golf tournaments and outings, and his love of teaching elevates his potential to be a most successful PGA professional in the future.

Shane recently said, "I want to make sure that all individuals that play golf at Spring Lake have an enjoyable experience and that my staff and I provide a fun atmosphere for both the members and the guests."

In the short time that Shane has been at Spring Lake members and guests have attested that he is a motivated, educated, personable young professional who will make a very positive addition to the Golf Resort and to the community. Feel free to stop by the golf shop and introduce yourself to Shane.

Preliminary Survey Results Are In

District Supervisor Bill Lawens and his committee have distributed Community Development Questionnaires to all Spring Lake residents, giving every person an opportunity to provide input into future projects. The questionnaires were also included in several issues of *The Breeze*, distributed at community functions, and a table was set up at the recently completed community picnic. To date, over 30 percent of our residents have filled out the surveys, and resident John Delaney has been tracking the results.

The District Board of Supervisors 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. While the District is empowered by Florida Statute to engage in drainage, parks and recreation, and a water department, a number of these projects will have to go to other governmental and private sources for funding and completion.

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

A full and complete analysis of this survey will be published in the February edition of *The Breeze*, following Board of Supervisors input and recommendations. Copies of the survey are still available in the District Office.

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