



# Spring Lake BREEZE

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VOL. 2 NO. 4

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APRIL 2008

## A Baseball Legend Living In Spring Lake

For those of you who followed baseball in the 60s and 70s, you should remember the names of Willie Mays, Orlando Cepeda, Willie McCovey, Roberto Clemente, Willie Stargell, Steve Carlton, Mike Schmidt, Juan Marichal, Don Larsen, Gaylord Perry and Manny Sanguillen. Can you imagine having played with all of these greats, most of who are in the Hall of Fame? Can you imagine knowing them as your personal friends? Can you imagine being a part of baseball lore and history?

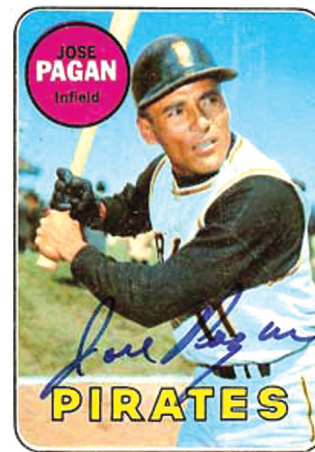
Jose Antonio (Rodriguez) Pagan not only can imagine it, he lived it!

Jose was born on May 5, 1935 in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico. He was only 20 years old when the San Francisco Giants signed him to an amateur-free agent contract in 1955. On Aug. 4, 1959, he played in his first big league game when the Giants played the old Milwaukee Braves and the likes of Hank Aaron, Joe Torre, Eddie Matthews, Lou Burdette and Warren Spahn.

*A Baseball Legend Living In Spring Lake on page 2*



Jose and his wife proudly display memorabilia in their home.



Jose's 1969 autographed Topps baseball card



The 1971 World Series Championship ring is always on his finger

## Spring Lake Golfers Make A Difference

By Debbie Delaney

The Spring Lake Women's Golf Association dedicated the 2008 Breast Cancer Support Tournament to Ginette Carpenter of Lake Placid. This was the first year that the donations were given to an area resident with breast cancer rather than a national organization. You may recall the Oct. 22, 2007 article, "A Letter To Her Children" in *Highlands Today* about Ginette's battle against cancer.

On Feb. 6, many of the women's league members met Ginette at lunch after their golf. It was heartbreaking and touching to hear her plight. Despite her obstacles, she stays positive and motivated. Ginette is an entrepreneur of small businesses including therapeutic masseuse and a baby supplies rental



Ginette Carpenter and her daughters, Krystal and Kelly

service.

The tournament was held at Spring Lake Golf Resort on Feb. 23, and the entire field of 144 golfers was able to meet single mother, Ginette, and her daughters at the luncheon that followed golf. Ginette respectfully gave a personal thank you to the gathering, and daughters, Krystal and Kelly, assisted tournament chairperson Gail Whiting draw raffle tickets and present prizes.

Many golfers received door prizes ranging from golf clubs to baskets of flowers with other items included. The golfers generously purchased tickets for the 10 themed baskets and 50/50 drawing. Including donations that were

*Spring Lake Golfers Make A Difference on page 2*

### Greg Gretz Retiring

After working for the Spring Lake Improvement District for 25 years, Water Superintendent Greg Gretz has retired. A dinner honoring Greg was held on March 17 at the Community Center, attended by District Staff and Supervisors.



Greg Gretz retires from 25 years of service.

Greg was born in 1946 on the North Side of Chicago and his family moved to the South Side for most of his youth. He attended Mendel High School and Thornton Community College. He was employed in the grocery industry with National Tea Food Stores and the Great Atlantic Pacific Tea Company. In 1981 the A&P closed down the entire Chicago division and it was time for a move.

Greg moved to Spring Lake in 1982 and at that time the supermarkets had a freeze on hiring full-time employees. A position opened at the Improvement District in the Drainage Department in 1983 and Greg was hired. Bob Beck was the licensed water-plant operator at the time and told Greg that he would like to retire. Greg started to attend Polk Community College and took night classes three times a week to secure an operator's license. In 1989, Greg passed the exam, which was a four-hour test developed by the Department of Environmental Protection and obtained his water plant operator's license. He has been in the water department ever since.

Over the years, Greg has seen many changes in the water department as it has continued to grow and expand. With only one other worker at his disposal, Greg has always been a "hands on" employee. You could often see Greg getting dirty and muddy as he worked to repair a broken water line, regardless of the time of day or night. During his tenure, the District has rarely had a boil order, and he leaves a plant that has been diligently looked after. He often has been told that the plant is "like his baby."

The District thanks Greg for his 25 years of dedicated and faithful service and wishes him and his wife, Peggy, many years of happy retirement.

## Italian Dinner Party

Almost 20 years ago, Art and Angelina Brunetti bought land in Spring Lake and started to build their retirement home. Over the years the Brunettis were involved in numerous Resort and community activities, always bringing "a touch of class" to whatever event they participated in or hosted. Each year Art and



Hostess Angelina Brunetti

Angelina had an Italian dinner party at their home, with cuisine that was prepared and nurtured by Angelina. Art died eight years ago, but his presence was certainly felt by all who attended the Feb. 23 event.

There is no mistaking where Angelina lives on Concord Street. Golfers who leave the 12th green of the Panther course can't help but notice what looks like an Italian Villa. Originally from Schenectady, N.Y., and being of Italian descent, the home will remind you of what it would be like

*Italian Dinner Party on page 5*

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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

### 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 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](mailto:slid115@embarqmail.com), or visit our Web site at [www.springlakeimprovement.com](http://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.**



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# 50th Wedding Anniversary

It's not every day that all of your children arrive on your doorstep to visit. On Friday, Feb. 8, Bill and Marsenna Rentel's children and granddaughter paid a surprise visit to celebrate their 50th anniversary. They made an original welcome sign and waited in the driveway to surprise their parents. The Red Hat Mammars were also invited to the surprise, as Marsenna is the perfect Red Hat Queen Mum!



Marsenna and Bill Rentel celebrate 50th anniversary.

Children, Billy, Cindy, Jane and Stacy, sent engraved invitations to their parents' friends which read, "Because you have shared in their lives by your friendship and love, we invite you to join in the celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents." The guests were treated to a wonderful meal at Inn On The Lakes and the evening was spent telling stories and sharing memories; with lots of laughs.

## A Baseball Legend Living In Spring Lake from page 1

It didn't take Jose long to get to the World Series. In 1962 the Giants played the New York Yankees but lost in seven games. Even in defeat, Jose was a big winner, having the highest batting average for the seven game World Series, .368. Better than Mays, McCovey, Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris. That same year Jose had one of his best seasons in the majors, playing 164 games and batting .259 with 150 hits, seven homers, and 57 runs batted in. In 580 at bats he only struck out 77 times and walked 47 times. In 15 years in the majors he had 3,689 at bats, 922 hits, 52 homers and 372 runs batted in. He finished with a career .250 batting average.

In 1965, Jose was traded to Pittsburgh for Dick Schofield. In 1971 Jose found himself in another World Series, this time against the Baltimore Orioles. The pitching staff for Baltimore incredibly had four 20-game winners in Jim Palmer, Mike Cuellar, Dave McNally and Pat Dobson. They were heavily favored to beat the Pirates but Jose was able to win his first World Series ring (pictured). In spite of hitting against the four best pitchers in the American League, he was able to bat .267. As the picture indicates, Jose proudly wears his World Series ring to this day.

Jose played his last major league game on Aug. 15, 1973, and spent a number of years after that coaching in Puerto Rico and back in the states as a minor league coach. Jose has traveled the country for many years attending card shows, dinners, awards ceremonies, old-timers games and

making speeches. It is amazing the stories that Jose can tell about the people he played with and the game he loves.

In this sports age where athletes make millions of dollars and have no sense of history for the game, they take for granted the players like Jose Pagan who came before them. One of the most amazing statistics Jose shared was the highest salary he ever received was \$35,000. Alex Rodriquez makes more than that in one game!

Jose and his wife, Delia, who friends refer to as Luz, first came to Spring Lake on vacation over 20 years ago to visit friends. Each year they visited they enjoyed the peace and quiet, but Jose said, "I would never live here!" His brother in law, Pedro Ponce, was a Realtor in this area and in 1997 Jose changed his mind and bought a lot. He and Luz moved here in 1999 and Jose now says, "We love it." Luz has other family, including her mother and sister, who also live in Spring Lake.

Jose and his beautiful wife, Luz, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 15, with many relatives and friends sharing the moment at a party in Orlando. Married in 1958, the family lived in San Francisco, Pittsburgh and Puerto Rico as Jose followed his baseball career. They have two children, Jose Jr. (Tony), who lives in Connecticut, and Ramon (Munchie) who is in Orlando.

Spring Lake is honored to have Jose and Luz as residents. They are a living example of what hard work, dedication and caring can bring to families; and their love and generosity continues to this day.

## Spring Lake Golfers Make A Difference from page 1

also made, the proceeds totaled \$3,378.

The Tournament Committee did a wonderful job and is to be complimented. The members include: Gail Whiting, Debbie Delaney, Joanne Koller, Grace Albert, Ellie Demitz, Barb Stevens, Jane Burgoyne, Laura Poe, Shirley Olnhausen and Margaret Mazzola. Help was also secured and appreciated from: Bernie Ray, Dottie Blackwell, Terrie Austin, Barb Mountz, Bill Lawens, Karl Olnhausen, Ray Albert and Dwight Demitz. A special thanks to the SLWGA members who participated and their donations of items or cash.

**A Flight Winners:** First, Don and Bernie Ray; Jeff and

Arnie Klingbiel; Second, John Bozynski; Teresa Hyre; Shane Riley; Steve Gorham

**B Flight Winners:** First, Larry Meisner; Gail Whiting; Bill and Kathie Lawens; Second, Linda Pflieger; Ellie Demitz; Dale and Barbara Stevens

**C Flight Winners:** First, Vicky and Phil McMullin; Jeannie and Graham Teague; Second, Jon and Marie Brower; Brick and Jane MacLaren

**D Flight Winners:** First, Bill and Sharon Warner; Dave and Debbie Docherty; Second, Vern and MJ Hoffman; Don and Jody Cunning

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## A Special Night Out

Barb Stapleford moved to Spring Lake over a dozen years ago and lived on Spring Lake Boulevard. Due to health challenges, she had to move into the Kenilworth assisted living facility, but still maintained contact with friends she made in Spring Lake, particularly Debbie DeCerbo and Daisy Wilkins. Barb's wonderful spirit, sharp mind and wit and pleasant personality are an inspiration to all who know her.

On Feb. 15, Barb got into her mechanized wheel chair and with her escorts rolled down Kenilworth Boulevard to Elks Lodge 1529 for the Friday night buffet, joined by several other Spring Lake residents who gathered for this special night out.



Barb Stapleford, Debbie DeCerbo, Daisy and Wayne Wilkins enjoy the evening at the Elks Lodge.

## McFarling Tournament A Success

The Second Annual Jim McFarling Memorial Tournament was a great success, raising \$3,686. The Golf Outing was held at Spring Lake Golf Resort on Saturday, March 1, over the Panther course, with 130 players in four flights.

All proceeds from this event assist a young girl and boy involved in Junior Golf or the High School golf team, with financial aid towards their college education. It was wonderful to see winners donate their winnings back to the scholarship fund; a credit to people wanting to help others in the memory of an old friend ... a class act.

**A Flight Winners:** John and Debbie Delaney, Teri Swisher, Shane Riley

**B Flight:** Don Rightmeyer, Bob Rider, Garth Handlon, John DeJean

**C Flight:** Ken and Linda Poe, Joe and Jane Burgoyne

**D Flight:** Leon and Gail Van, Rob and Carole Frederick



John Delaney presents check to family member, Bob Rider



Members of the McFarling family

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# Spring Lake Happenings In Pictures



Progress Energy changing poles and wires in the District



District Staff begin the cleaning of Village I Park



Plumbers working on the new maintenance facility



The Cracker Trail Ride attracts residents and pets as well



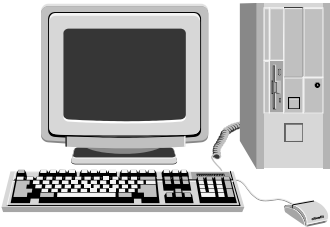
Debbie Delaney and Joanne DeWeese prepare gift bags for a golf outing



Bob and Tiiu Vanderplogge enjoy the renovated tennis courts

## Join The District E-Mail 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 – rightly so.

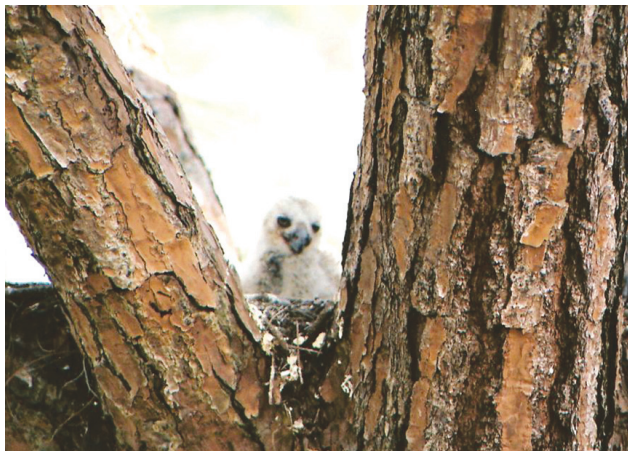


In the future, the District would be able to notify people of not only water being turned off but any boil orders, emergency situations or other items that would be important for you to know that can't wait until the next issue of *The Breeze* or be put on the Web site.

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, simply go to: [www.springlakeimprovement.com/notifyme](http://www.springlakeimprovement.com/notifyme). Click on subscribe.

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



A baby white owl and eagle in Village I Park



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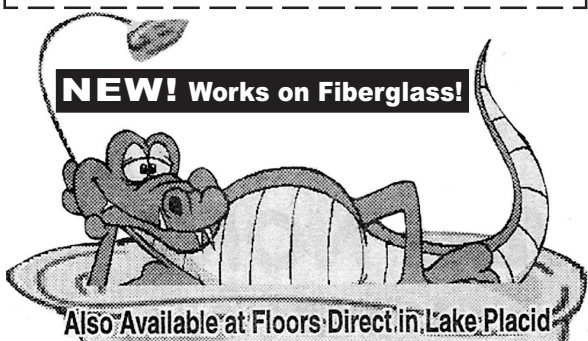
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*Italian Dinner Party from page 1*

to live in Italy. The inside is a gorgeous array of furniture, lamps, chandeliers and collectibles and the driveway and entry is decorated "ala Italia."

It was in this setting that guests started out the evening with Italian wine and appetizers followed by: fruit cup; shrimp cocktail; anti-pasta; mushroom salad; chicken

tortellini soup; eggplants; stuffed shells; sausage and meatballs; pie; and napoleon pastries. No one left hungry; in fact, Angelina had doggie bag containers for each guest to take home the delicious foods.

Ike Anderson, Dr. John Caruso, Danny and Angie Mandis, Joe and Debbie DeCerbo, Howard and Marie

Newmark, Dennis and Gigi Murray and John and Susan Mandis attended the dinner.

If you have an annual or special event in your home, please send the information to *The Breeze* and we will be happy to publish it.



Table awaiting an Italian feast



The Brunetti house located on Concord Street

# Bring Birds To Your Backyard

By Corine Burgess, Highlands County Soil and Water Conservation District

Wherever you live, you can bring comfort to wildlife and joy to your own life by offering a bit of habitat to nature's creatures. You can have a small wildlife sanctuary in your own backyard. With the right plants for food and shelter, you can attract spring and fall migrating birds as well as those that might stay year round. Add water and you can do wonders for birds, butterflies and your own disposition.

If you want to be successful at creating a welcome place for these creatures, think like a bird! For example, all birds need three things to survive: food, shelter and water. If a bird flies over your yard and sees a close cropped lawn, sheared shrubs, and flowering plants with no blooms it may think of your yard as an unwelcoming desert like area. There is nothing to eat, nowhere to hide, and no good nesting areas.

Therefore, the landscaping choices you make will be a deciding factor in the success of your backyard sanctuary.

Fruits, nuts and seeds from trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses will attract a variety of birds. Put in plants that offer

the type of food the birds you prefer enjoy. The same is true for feeding stations: the location, feeder style and food type will determine the birds that visit. If you want to provide a year-round habitat for birds and butterflies, you will need to provide a year-round food supply.

To attract the greatest variety of birds, use a station with a variety of feeder types, such as gravity-fed cylinder tubes, hopper boxes, platforms and suet feeders. Position them at different levels. Offer millet for ground feeders; black oil sunflower and thistle for finches and peanut and suet for woodpeckers. Locate the station feeders next to natural cover such as evergreen shrubs or trees. The feeders should be clean with fresh food or seed. The same trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses that offer food to your backyard birds can offer them cover. The birds use that cover for escape, roosting, nesting and rearing their young.

Another option is to build or purchase birdhouses designed for specific species of birds, with the opening size critical. In addition, most birds need open water for bathing, drinking and controlling their temperatures. A small backyard pond or a birdbath will do the job. The sound of flowing water attracts birds, so a fountain or small

waterfall will increase your chances to bring birds to your back yard.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has a well-illustrated, full color 28-page booklet available on backyard conservation available at no charge. It contains names of trees, shrubs, flowers and foods that attract birds. It is available by calling 888-LANDCARE. For more information, stop by the Highlands County Soil and Water Conservation District offices at 4505 George Boulevard in Sebring or visit the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute's site at [www.whmi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.whmi.nrcs.usda.gov) or the NRCS home Web site at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

Did you know that hummingbirds, the smallest birds in North America, are the only birds that can fly backwards? Their wings are adapted to helicopter-like flight, a circular whirl that allows them to hover, move ahead, sideways or backward. They don't use a sense of smell to select food sources but can taste the amount of sugar in the solution. They prefer sweeter concentrates like those possible in a sugar and water feeder.

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# News From Your Water Department

## Treatment Plant Study Completed:

As previously announced, Craig A. Smith & Associates Engineers and Bailey Electrical Engineering conducted a study of the water plant. Results of the study will assist the Board of Supervisors in budgeting future expenditures needed to maintain a safe and functioning potable water treatment plant for our community.

The Districts water treatment plant has a current rated capacity of 999,999 gallons per day, with three existing wells. The water plant is over 30 years old and many parts of the infrastructure are just as old. The study pointed out that our plant is in relatively good shape for its age. Over the years we have made needed repairs but actual replacements and upgrades have been minimal. The study concluded:

- 1) Well number one, which is not in use at this time, should be left in place for future use rather than abandon or plug the well.
- 2) The 400,000-gallon ground storage tanks large level switch must be replaced.
- 3) Both ground storage tanks need to have their five-year integrity testing done by their manufacturers.
- 4) Electrical service to the water treatment site should be upgraded due to excessive voltage drop.
- 5) The existing main breaker should be replaced.
- 6) The plant should convert to liquid bleach.
- 7) A new chemical feed needs to be installed.
- 8) A new compressor needs to be installed.
- 9) Lightning protection needs to be upgraded.

It is anticipated that completing all of the recommendations will be approximately **\$75,000**. Considering the age of the plant, we have certainly received our monies worth from the original equipment.

The next stage of the study will be the infrastructure outside the water treatment plant area. Ensuring proper flows and pressure; looping in certain areas of the community such as Village I; hydrant inspections; backflow and cross connections; and other standard engineering functions.

## Water Superintendent Hired:

The District is happy to announce the hiring of Jay Angell as the new Water Superintendent. This is a homecoming for Jay, as he started his water treatment career right here in Spring Lake from 1989 through 1996 as a water utility field technician. He left our community to become the Water and Wastewater Utility Foreman in the Sun 'n Lake Improvement District through 2001. He has been the Chief Operator for the City of Sebring the past seven years.



Jay Angell

Jay is a dual licensed Class C Water/Wastewater Plant Operator. Over the years he has accumulated hundreds of hours of Continuing Education Units from the Department of Environmental Protection, Hillsboro Community College, Polk Community College, Texas A&M University, Florida Operators Association and FEMA's Emergency Management Institute. He is an active member in several professional organizations and also holds a Water Distribution License.

Jay is married with two children and has one grandchild. He and his family reside in Sebring.

Spring Lake is extremely fortunate to have hired an individual with the skills and training that Jay has. The future of our water department will continue to be in good hands.

## New Water Rates And Fees Established:

A public hearing was held on Wednesday, March 12, at 2 p.m. to review all the water rates and fees. The last time these costs were reviewed occurred in July of 2001 when the Board adopted a rate schedule that was to increase each year by the Consumer Price Index. Over the past seven years, the rates never increased staying at \$1.43 per 1,000 gallons and a base rate of only \$10 per month. If the increases had



been put into place as intended, today's rates would be \$1.71 per 1,000 gallons and a base rate of \$12.04 per month.

The Board of Supervisors is responsible for setting all water rates and fees for the District, and to ensure the future well-being of the Water Department. The establishment of appropriate rates and fees allow the Board to:

1. Maintain our system's financial stability by ensuring a sufficient revenue stream.
2. Collect and reserve the funds needed to cover the costs of future asset rehabilitation and repair projects, security upgrades and compliance with future regulations and policies.
3. Plan ahead for reasonable, gradual rate increases.
4. Deliver fairly priced, high quality drinking water to residents now and in the future.

At the March 12 Public Hearing, the Board reviewed the Craig A. Smith water plant study, comparative water rates from surrounding communities, average water usage data, rates and fees projections developed by staff and projected

fiscal '09 operating and capital expenses for the water department.

After lengthy discussion by the Board of Supervisors, a resolution was approved that establishes a base rate of \$13.50 and a per 1,000 gallon fee based on usage as follows:

Up to 1000 gallons	included in base rate fee
Over 1000 – 4000	\$1.53 per thousand gallons
Over 4000 – 6000	\$1.63
Over 6000 – 8000	\$1.73
Over 8000 – 10000	\$1.93
Over 10000 – 20000	\$2.13
Over 20000	\$ 2.33

A complete list of all water rates and fees are available at the District Office and can also be viewed on the District's Web site. The power point presentation that was used at the public hearing is also available.

The new rates and fees will go into effect with the April billing cycle.

## Board News



• Due to scheduling conflicts, the Board of Supervisors is changing the meeting dates for two upcoming months. The June Board meeting will be held on the June 18, and the July meeting will be held on the July 16. The 2 p.m. starting time in the District Office remains the same.

• An Attorney-Client session was held on March 12 to discuss settlement options with Sandy Tyrell and to begin the process of having the injunction lifted.

• Capital Improvement Chairman Bill Lawens is putting together a committee to develop a questionnaire for residents that will be an insert in the May paper. This survey will provide valuable data for the Capital Improvement initiative and allow all residents to make comments and offer suggestions.

• With a Resolution approving 17 residential irrigation permits for canal pumps at the February meeting, all residences in Spring Lake are now in compliance. If you plan to use the canal for any type of irrigation you must have a permit. Also, you cannot discharge water into the canals via pipes without

permits as well.

• At its February meeting the Board was presented with student enrollment data that was prepared by Lottie Brown (Spring Lake resident) who is the manager of student databases for the Highlands County Board of Education. Lottie reported that in the 33876 ZIP Code there are 250 elementary school age students, 103 middle school, and 144 high school age students; a total of 497 children. We have no data on preschool children, but they surely raise the total to over 500 children.

• Gene Schriener, President of Craig A. Smith & Associates Engineers, signed a continuing services agreement to remain as our District Engineer and represent the Board.

• Supervisor Brian Acker will once again chair the Finance Committee as the process to establish an FY '09 has begun. Supervisor Marsi Benson chairs the Personnel Committee, which is a large portion of the District budget.

## Recycle For Breast Cancer



Spring Lake resident, Tim McKenna, stopped by the District Office in early March with an idea. He asked if SLID could be a depository for old cell phones and ink cartridges that people wanted to donate. We thought it was a good idea and did some investigating.

Larry Behrens is the Manager for this program and he is headquartered in San Ramon, Calif. By filling out a few forms and answering some e-mail questions, the District Office

will soon have a display that contains postage paid envelopes for residents to take. You simply place cell phones and ink cartridges in the bag and drop it in the mail.

If you would like to see what other electronic devices you can donate simply go to their Web site at [www.recycleforbreastcancer.org](http://www.recycleforbreastcancer.org). Free shipping labels are available for all of the donated products.

Thanks for the great and easy to set up idea, Tim.

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## Bits And Pieces

• *The Breeze* appreciates the nice comments from two of our residents. 18-year resident, Rachel Green, said, "I commend SLID for the improvements that have been made in our entire community, including *The Breeze*. The changes are very apparent. I was pleasantly surprised when the four new card tables were purchased for the Community Center; they are great for our Thursday night Bridge Group."

Jim Briggs adds, "I love *The Breeze*; Concise, Interesting, and Informative. Keep up the good work."

• JR Clarke has worked for the District just over seven years in the water department. On Christmas morning, JR lost his little daughter who was born premature in June. If that wasn't enough tragedy, JR lost his older brother and sister-in-law in a horrific car crash caused by a drunk driver in a head-on collision. The family has chosen to try and lessen their grief by supporting Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Brothers Against Drunk Driving (BADD). If you would

like to donate to either of these organizations on behalf of the Clarke family, please send your donation in care of JR Clarke, 4615 High Ave., Sebring, FL 33870.

• The invasive Brazilian Pepper Plants has received a lot of attention in the local papers lately and Spring Lake is not immune to them. Plants on District property along waterways are being sprayed aggressively. If you come in contact with them they can be like poison ivy.

• If you want to participate in any of the Relay for Life events, mark your calendars for the following: Avon Park High School Football Field on April 12 and 13; Fireman's Field on April 26 and 27. For information go to [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org).

• *Readers Digest* has an excellent Web site you may want to see at [www.rd.com](http://www.rd.com).

• Local writer, Nancy Dale, has a great new book out about Florida's Pioneer "Cow Hunters" who tamed the last frontier. The book is named *Would Do, Could Do, and Made Do*. Visit

her Web site at [www.nancydalephd.com](http://www.nancydalephd.com).

• The Kiplinger Letter reports: Hollywood box office receipts will hit \$10 billion in 2008; more than half of all employers now have monitoring software to control employee misuse of the computer; postal rates increasing on May 12; and online retail sales in 2008 will hit \$200 billion.

• Online Retirement Planner available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2).

## Did You Know ...

• In the 1400s a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb; hence we have "the rule of thumb."

• Many years ago in Scotland a new game was invented. It was called "Gentlemen Only ... Ladies Forbidden" ... and thus the word **golf** entered the language.

• The first couple to be shown in bed together was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

• Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than for the U.S. Treasury.

• Coca-Cola was originally green.

• It is impossible to lick your elbow.

• The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work is Alaska.

• The percentage of Africa that is wilderness is 28 percent. The percentage in the United States that is wilderness is 38 percent.

• The average number of people airborne over the United

States in any given hour: 61,000.

• The first novel ever written on a typewriter was *Tom Sawyer*.

• The San Francisco Cable Cars are the only mobile National Monuments.

• Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades	King David
Hearts	Charlemagne
Clubs	Alexander the Great
Diamonds	Julius Caesar

• 111,111,111, times 111,111,111, equals 12,345,678,987,654,321.

• If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

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## Water Restrictions Continue

Contrary to the Property Association e-mail suggesting the Improvement District told our residents to **ignore** the correct watering schedule, here is what actually took place.

The District Manager received a letter from the South Florida Water Management District in early January with new watering guidelines we were asked to publicize and follow. The same article appeared in the *Heartland Times* as well. That article appeared in the February issue of *The Breeze* **under the byline of SFWMD**.

While the March issue of *The Breeze* was already in publication, we were informed by the County Board of Commissioners that both Water Districts have given the County permission to establish water restrictions for the entire County and not have to worry about what area of the County is in a certain water District.

To suggest that SLID (Spring Lake Improvement District) purposely asked people to ignore the correct information is simply ludicrous. Having this explanation should make it clear why the error took place and while we regret it happened, we were not going to ignore a directive from the water district that regulates Spring Lake.

Here is the official information that we have from the County that allows watering before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

Addresses with house numbers	May only irrigate on
Ending in 0 or 1	Monday
Ending in 2 or 3	Tuesday
Ending in 4 or 5	Wednesday
Ending in 6 or 7	Thursday
Ending in 8 or 9	Friday

Let's hope that everyone now has the correct information and will abide by it.

## A Billion Is Really A Lot

A local resident who does not want to be identified submitted this to *The Breeze* via e-mail and it is too good to ignore and not publish.

"The next time you hear a politician use the word **billion** in a casual manner, think about whether you want these politicians spending **your** tax money. A billion is a hard number to comprehend, but one advertising agency did a good job of putting that figure into perspective in one of its releases:

- 1) A billion seconds ago it was 1959
- 2) A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive
- 3) A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age
- 4) A billion days ago no one walked on the earth with two feet
- 5) A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes at the rate our government is spending it.

In looking at the disaster that occurred in New Orleans, it's amazing what you can learn with some simple division. Louisiana Democratic Senator Mary Landrieu previously asked the Congress for \$250 Billion to rebuild the City. What exactly does this mean?

If you were one of the 484,674 residents of New Orleans, every man, woman, and child would each get \$516,528.

If you have one of the 188,251 homes in New Orleans, your home gets \$1,329,787.

If you are a family of four, your family gets \$2,066,012.

Washington, D.C. ... **Hello!!!!** Are all your calculators broken?"



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