

Spring Lake BREEZE

Florida... the way it should be!



Funding Provided For Pump Station

Once again Senator Denise Grimsley and Representative Cary Pigman have come thru for Spring Lake! Thanks to their efforts the District has secured a \$500,000 Legislative Appropriation for the rehabilitation of our 40 year old pump station. Another Spring Lake supporter, Governor Scott, signed off on the appropriation as many other projects throughout the State were vetoed. This is the second appropriation the District has received; last year we were the recipients of \$416,000 as a match for our Storm Water Treatment Grant from FDEP. Total grants and appropriations over the last two years total \$2,164,000; monies that our residents would have had to pay thru assessments to complete these projects.

Gene Schriener, our District Engineer from Craig A. Smith Engineering, is heading up the project. At the September Board meeting Supervisors approved the Engineering scope of work, and construction project will begin after the first of the year. Rehabilitation includes:

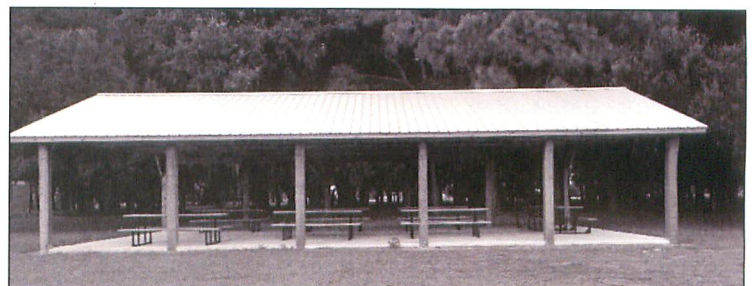


- Two new electric pumps; diesel pump upgrades
- Testing for stability of structure, especially near area of old sink hole
- Re-enforcing pump station wall between structure and outflow pipes
- Replace asphalt that is removed for the testing and reinforcement
- Install control structure from Storm water Treatment Area into canal in front of station
- Install additional outfall riprap, extending to channel, and reshape slopes
- Replace chain link fencing and install security system
- Install updated timing system for pump operation
- Install hurricane resistant doors and shutters
- Engineering, testing, surveying, permits, and permit fees

Between the Storm Water Treatment Area and the pump station rehabilitation, Spring Lake will be protected from flooding for generations to come.

Pavilion Completed

A pavilion has been constructed at Pine Breeze Park, just behind the playground area. There are picnic tables that can accommodate up to 50 people; grills and a water fountain will be added towards the end of the year. There are many times that several groups want to use the community center at the same time, and this should alleviate many of those problems. The pavilion does not require reservations and is available for any Spring Lake resident and their guests.





County Drainage Assistance —

Highlands County Road and Bridge have been assisting the District in cleaning out a number of drainage pipes that go from Duane Palmer Blvd., into the ponds recently cleaned out by District Staff, and then into the canals. The pipes were installed 40 years ago and debris was preventing proper flow of storm water. Many standing water problems have been practically eliminated.



Visit The District Website —

springlakefl.com

Residents should visit the District website regularly to catch up on the latest developments in our community. Along with monthly Board minutes and Financials, the site has numerous sections of interest for everyone. Spring Lake will be in compliance with a new Florida Statute that requires all Special Districts to maintain a website and include a laundry list of items that are pertinent to transparency and open government.

Many issues of The Breeze will be put on the website instead of being mailed out. Residents can also receive copies via e-mail. If you would like to use the e-mail option, simply go to the website and register as a new user.



Periodic e-mail blasts will also keep you informed of what is happening with your District.

While it is the responsibility of Government to make everything available to taxpayers, it is your responsibility to seek information and be informed by visiting the website.

springlakefl.com

Utility Rates and Fees —

Every year the Florida Rural Water Association, an agency dedicated to assisting communities with their utility systems, conducts a study and submits a report recommending rates and fees. A full copy of this report can be viewed on our website or obtained at the District Office.



The Base Rate for the water system has been increased by \$1 per month and will now be \$19. The initial deposit to open an account has been increased to \$125 but is waived if the customer takes advantage of the ACH program. There were no increases in the monthly water usage fees.

The Waste Water Utility provides service to just over 300 residents. They will be receiving a letter and brochure mailed to their homes relative to the current plant, plans for the new plant, rates and fees, and information on protecting the step system.

Storm Water Treatment Area —

Eden's Construction has been moving forward with the multi-million dollar STA in spite of the steady rains we have been receiving. A number of rain days had to be used, but they are making great progress in keeping up with the requirements of our grant.

As stated in earlier issues, we have received grants totaling \$1,248,000 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and \$416,000 from the State Legislature. The District match will be \$417,000 which we hope to be funded thru a grant application that has been made to the South Florida Water Management District.

When all three phases of the STA project is completed, total cost will be just under \$3 million. The District has also secured a no interest, 20 year loan from the State Revolving Fund in the amount of \$1.7 million in the event no other grants are awarded to complete the project.



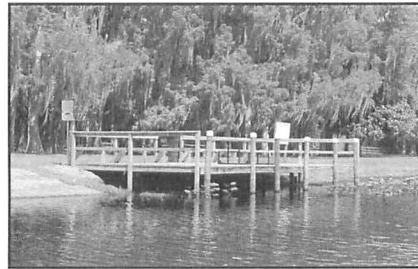
Assessments Established

The Board of Supervisors has established the tax assessments for FY '16 (October 1, 2015 thru September 30, 2016). The Board reviewed budget options beginning in May and received drafts in June and July. A third draft was presented at a Public Hearing in August, and the final draft was approved at the September meeting.



General Assessment for FY '16	\$299.78 per unit
	(excluding Village I)
Village I Park's Assessment	40.81
Street Lights, Village I	4.51*
Street Lights, all other Villages	3.64*
Mosquito Control Village I	1.62*
Mosquito Control, all other Villages	1.31*
	(*part of monthly water bill)

Lot Mowing	170.00 /lot
	200.00 /commercial acre



Board Update

Brian Acker, Board Chairman

This issue of The Breeze contains detailed articles on the following points. The budgets for the next fiscal year were adopted by the Board at the September meeting. The assessment for the next fiscal year is \$299.78, an eight dollar increase over this year. Rate studies conducted by the Florida Rural Water Association and the District Engineer were used to establish the rates for the Water and Wastewater Utilities. The base rate for water customers increased one dollar to cover the costs associated with installing backflow prevention devices mandated by the State of Florida. A base and volumetric rate which is applied based upon customer water usage were established for the recently acquired Wastewater Utility. Information regarding the budget, utility rates and fees is available at the District Office and on the District website.

I am pleased to report that the first phase of the Storm water Treatment Area (STA) construction is nearing completion. Financing for this phase was provided through a Florida Department of Environmental Protection grant and a legislative appropriation. The next phases will commence upon award of the contracts. The District has received additional grant money for STA construction and has also been approved for a zero percent, 30-year, \$1.2 million dollar loan from the State Revolving Fund. The District has applied for funding through South Florida Water Management District that if approved would reduce the loan amount.

I am also pleased to report that a \$500,000 appropriation was approved for rehabilitation of the District pump station. We have Governor Scott, Senator Grimsley and Representative Pigman to thank for their support.

The District is in the process of applying for a \$1.8 million dollar zero percent interest loan from the State Revolving Fund to finance the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant. The present plant must be completely replaced by May 2018 in accordance with a Florida Department of Environment Protection administrative order. A new plant will meet the needs of the District for many years to come.

The Board wishes to thank Gene Schriener and the staff of Craig A. Smith & Associates, the District Engineer for all their hard work this past year. A copy of the District Engineer's annual report is available at the District Office and on the District website. This report highlights all of the major projects occurring in the District.

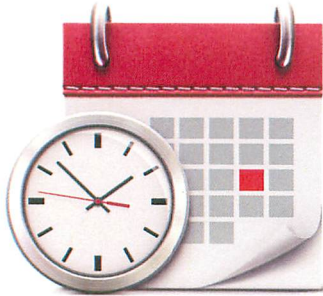


Left to right are: Secretary, Tim McKenna; Chairman, Brian Acker; Arlene Klingbiel; Past Chairman, Bill Lawens; and Gary Behrendt, Vice-Chairman

SPRING LAKE

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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Meeting and Holiday Schedule

The Spring Lake Improvement District Board of Supervisors will meet on the second Wednesday of each month, the exception being June and August. The dates are: November 11 (Landowner's Meeting); December 9; January 13, 2016; February 10; March 9; April 13; May 11; June 15; July 13; August 3 (also Public Hearing on the budget); September 14.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Remainder of FY '15 thru 2016

Columbus Day	Monday, October 12, 2015
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 26
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2016
Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday	Monday, January 18
Presidents Day	Monday, February 15
Good Friday	Friday, March 25
Memorial Day	Monday, May 30
Independence Day (observed)	Monday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 5
Columbus Day	Monday, October 10
Veteran's Day	Friday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 24
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 25
Day after Christmas	Monday, December 26

Waste Water Plant

When the District purchased the waste water plant (WWP) it was in disrepair and operating under a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Administrative Order due to its condition. Over 300 residential units were being affected by this "accident waiting to happen" and the Board of Supervisors agreed to acquire the plant after consultation with our District Engineer, and several Board meeting discussions. Since March, District staff has done a tremendous job in repairing the current plant and monitoring the system on a daily basis.

The current capacity of the WWP will not meet the future needs of Spring Lake, and efforts were immediately taken to secure funding for a new plant. The State Revolving Fund has agreed to provide up to \$1.7 million at ZERO interest for 30 years. This new plant will have a tremendous impact on future development as the District can now provide water and sewer. Only users of the WWP are charged any rates and fees for the yearly operating budget.

