



SpringLake BREEZE

Florida . . . the way it should be.

VOL. 1 NO. 1

FEBRUARY 2007

What Is SLID?

Over the years, most people have simply referred to the Spring Lake Improvement District as SLID. Created by a Special Act of the State Legislature in 1971, it is a unit of government similar to a municipality. The exception is that the District does not have authority over land use, zoning, development codes, police, or fire. Throughout Florida, Special Districts were established to promote development. Coral Ridge Properties, which was a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric, took the leadership role in the development of Spring Lake.

Throughout the '70s, Spring Lake grew and developed. On July 26, 1980 the Spring Lake Golf Course marked its grand opening. That same year the Community Center remodeling was completed, and has remained in its current location since that time. In addition to Pine Breeze Park, where the community center is located, the District also maintains a park in Village I, Lakeside Park, Russ Ankrom Park, and both a park and boat ramp at Arbuckle Creek.

The District is responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Water Management System for drainage and flood control. All permitting comes from the South Florida Water Management District. It is also responsible for the supply of potable water, mosquito control, street lighting, lot mowing and the operation and maintenance of recreational facilities.

Spring Lake was originally designed to have gravity flow drainage through water control structures that go west to east, to the pump station. The system drains approximately 3,324 acres, 200 acres of canal surface, and 17.1 miles of canal network. This system has worked exceptionally well for the community until a lawsuit was filed by a property owner east of the pump station. The District has been under a pumping injunction for the past several years (see injunction article) as a result of this owner's litigation.

There are five commissioners who are elected by the voters. Three are elected by the landowners (one vote for each lot) and two are elected by popular vote. They meet the second Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in the District Offices.

The District Offices are located at the corner of Spring Lake Boulevard and Rt. 98 and are open to the public. A drive-up window allows residents to personally pay their monthly water bills or seek information. The office has the capacity to operate emergency services and to be headquarters for emergency personnel. The normal business hours are weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with on-call emergency staff 24 hours.

Throughout the upcoming months we will be writing stories about numerous facets of SLID, from its history to its current status. There is a lot to learn about SLID and your community and we look forward to sharing it with you.

Welcome Back!

In 1973, two years after the creation of Spring Lake, a group of residents and business people came together to establish a complimentary newspaper that was called the *SpringLake Breeze*. To pay tribute to those people who settled here and had a dream for this community, we have adopted the same name that they had more than 30 years ago. Similar to those days gone by, this monthly newspaper is intended to share important information, stories and community highlights.

The *Breeze* is being mailed to every homeowner and property owner on a monthly basis and additional complimentary copies will be available at our District Offices and several locations throughout Spring Lake for visitors and guests.

We urge all of you to support the initial sponsors of our paper by using their services, saying thank you when you

see them or dropping them a note or e-mail. Their continued involvement in the coming months will be very important to our success. Some of these businesses are considering offices in Spring Lake, and they need to know we are aware and appreciative of their support.

This initial edition is focusing on a number of services, programs and organizations that we have in Spring Lake. Each month we will bring you information on a myriad of activities that you will find interesting and useful. If your group or organization would like to have articles in future editions, please contact the District Office for a schedule of deadline dates for submitting your articles and pictures.

Historical records indicate that the first building permit was issued in Spring Lake in 1972. What better way to start celebrating our 35th anniversary than with our own monthly community newspaper. Read and enjoy your first edition.

The 12 Hours Of Sebring

The Sebring Regional Airport and International Raceway have been neighbors to Spring Lake since the founding of our community. Both are home to one of the most famous races in the world, The Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring. The first race was held on New Year's Eve day in 1950 and lasted six hours. Two years later, the race was moved to March and promoted by Russian-born Alec Ulmann, who was an internationalist and founder of the Sports Car Club of America. Ulmann built the competition, bringing in world-famous drivers like Sterling Moss of England, World Champion Juan Fangio of Argentina, and Indy 500 winners like Bob Sweikert. He also brought in factory teams from Ferrari, Porsche and Jaguar, boasting drivers and crews from

all over the globe. In ensuing years, competitors have come from all seven continents. Nobility and Hollywood actors like Steve McQueen and Paul Newman have run the historic circuit.

The crush of fans has grown as well, from a few thousand at the first event, to an estimated 170,000 last year. The race has drawn international television coverage, becoming a staple of the Speed Channel. America's oldest and most prestigious sports car endurance race has become a preview of the famous 24 Hours of Le Mans. The winning manufacturer at Sebring has gone on to win Le Mans in seven of the past eight years.

Gates open on Wednesday, March 14 and remain open 24 hours a day through Saturday's 12-hour endurance classic.



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Who's Who?

The Improvement District is managed by a Board of Commissioners, a full-time staff and advisors. Here are the people in charge of SLID:

Board Of Commissioners:

Leon Van Chairman
 Marsi Benson Vice Chairperson
 Bill Rentel Secretary

Ann Steinlage
 Brian Acker

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 Tony Malantonio
 Randy Wilde Neil Wilkinson
 JR Clarke Corey Jones
 Bill Maine

District Advisors:

William Nielander Attorney
 Gene Schriener Craig A. Smith Engineering
 Craig Wrathell Financial and Management
 Bruce Stratton Accounting and Auditing

You Be The Judge

For the last several years most residents in Spring Lake have been confused, angry, disappointed or concerned about the injunction that the local courts have placed on the operation of our pumping station. There is no doubt that this litigation has cost our community monies that were better spent elsewhere. Just prior to the lawsuit, after years of planning, a new Community Center was going to be built. That project has been on the back burner since litigation began. What exactly are the facts of this case? What exactly has the court told Spring Lake? What exactly must we do in the future? Here are the applicable facts as presented by our attorneys to Circuit Judge Ellen Masters in a memorandum of law dated Oct. 6, 2006. It formed the basis of our request to the court, at a Dec. 1 hearing, for the injunction granted by Judge Langford to be modified or lifted.

The memorandum reads: "Spring Lake was created in 1971 by a Special Act of the Legislature of the State of Florida. Concurrently, in 1971, Circuit Court Judge Clifton Kelly approved the incorporation of Spring Lake under Chapter 298 of the Florida Statutes. Spring Lake then prepared a Plan of Reclamation and submitted it to the court. On May 31, 1973, Judge Kelly approved the bond issues for assessments to be levied against all the property within Spring Lake's boundaries. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) issued Permit #5897 on Dec. 13, 1973 to Spring Lake to construct and operate a 260,000-gallon per-minute pumping station, which would discharge overflow waters into Lake Istokpoga via Arbuckle Creek. Over 3,300 acres of wetlands were reclaimed by draining water through canals and the pumping station, which Spring Lake constructed in 1974. The final surface water management permit was granted by SFWMD on May 11, 1978, authorizing the plan. In the late 1970s construction of many homes and development of properties in Spring Lake was fully under way when new environmental regulations made approximately 500 acres of land inappropriate for development.

"In 1985, Florida National Properties sold the 500 acres

of land deemed inappropriate for development in three separate but contiguous locations to Central Southern Properties. In 1986 they auctioned off the 500 acres and Sandy Tyrell, with record notice and presumed full knowledge of the flooding issues, purchased 38 acres of the property that had been deemed inappropriate for development.

"It is unclear how Sandy Tyrell was able to obtain building permits for this property. However, what is clear is that Spring Lake, under its authority from SFWMD's permit, was required to turn on one pump when the water in the canals reached elevation 37.5 feet, and a second pump when the water reached 38.5 feet. Since 1974 much of the water that comes from the pump station flows over the majority of the Tyrell property, as planned and expected."

Attorney Kevin Ashley has represented Tyrell and has been successful in convincing the courts that Spring Lake has no legal right to put water on her property. Over the past several years the courts continue to tell Spring Lake that what has worked since the inception of our community is no longer allowed and now is under injunction. What was permitted by SFWMD is not valid and we should find a new solution. What has always been wetlands and not suitable for development should now be protected by the courts, regardless of the impact it has on the rest of our community.

With the help of the State of Florida Attorney General's Office and a study being conducted by our engineering firm, the Board of Commissioners will be looking at future options to resolve this problem.

Judge Langford and Judge Masters have ruled against Spring Lake and have placed and upheld a severe injunction on the operation of our pumping station. We are only allowed to pump 15 minutes per hour, up to 90 minutes per day. As we saw during *Ernesto*, that will not protect our community.

You be the judge.

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 County 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	655-4918
Village I	Dan Snyder	655-2723
Village II	Don Vandygriff	655-1762
Village III & IV	Joanne McCulley	655-1701
Village V	Marsi 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 3:30 p.m.

Any person requiring special accommodations at these meetings because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (863) 655-1815 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.

Lot Cleaning To Begin

Since the hurricanes of several years ago, many vacant lots still have large trees and limbs lying on the ground. The Improvement District, charged with mowing these lots, does not have jurisdiction over the lot owners to make them clean their property. The Spring Lake Property Association, which enforces the deed restrictions in our community, has the legal authority and has paved the way for expanded lot cleaning.

The Association Board voted to communicate with all lot owners and inform them that their lots are to be cleaned so proper mowing can take place. If the owner refuses to comply, the Association will place a lien on their lot.

The Association has secured bids and hired a firm to cut the trees and limbs. Spring Lake Improvement District has committed to use its equipment and manpower, as needed, to assist. This is a major cooperative venture that will certainly upgrade the aesthetics of our entire community. Thank you to both the Association and District Boards for working together on this important project.

The process includes lots in Villages I through VI, extending two lots in either direction from an existing dwelling. Please contact the Property Association if you want to notify them of lots that need to be part of this program.

Lorida Volunteer Fire Department

For many years, the Spring Lake community has been protected by a group of trained, committed and valuable individuals. Located on Rt. 98, the department responds to fires and emergencies on a regular basis. Last year they responded to 225 calls and personnel worked more than 2,250 hours on these calls.

The Lorida Fire District covers 256 square miles. There are 10 vehicles that average close to \$800 in fuel bills alone. There are seven state-certified firefighters and three CPR instructors. Other training to increase the level of expertise is available and the department is committed to taking advantage

of these programs as funds become available.

As an all-volunteer organization the department conducts various fund-raising activities throughout the year. In future editions of this paper we will be highlighting this very important facet of our community and learning how all of us can help support the department.

The department is led by Fire Chief Gerald Martin, Assistant Chief Swen Swenson and Captain Shawn Graham. You can contact the department for further information at 655-0122 or go to their Web site at www.loridavfd.org. In case of emergencies, always call 911.



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Vohn Steinlage Devoted To Spring Lake

Since arriving from South Florida several years ago with his wife Ann, all of us have seen Vohn volunteering his time and talents to improve our community. Most of the hats he wears are through the Property Association, where he also serves as a Board member. Here is what this committed resident does for all of us:

Beautification: Vohn has been responsible for the landscaping at all of the Village entrances. He plants and nurtures the flowers and greenery and ensures they are watered regularly. Each month in the Property Association newsletter he writes an article on gardening and is considered the garden master! He is always willing to help with people's problems and he enjoys sharing his talent. As an added bonus, Vohn installed the Christmas lights at every Village entrance.

Welcome Committee: As a deed restricted community, each Village has requirements and bylaws set forth by the Property Association. Vohn is chairman of this committee and ensures that new residents receive their packets. Very informative brochures are included from Highlands County organizations, Reliable Sanitation, local restaurants, lending closet, recycling and Neighborhood Watch.

Neighborhood Watch: This is a national, voluntary, self-help crime prevention effort centered around the community and local law enforcement working together for the safety and protection of a neighborhood. Vohn chairs this committee and has a group of watch captains responsible for each Village. Please see their names and information in the Important Phone Number section of this paper. On many occasions Vohn sets up a booth at community functions to promote this very important program.

Lending Closet: Last month we saw Vohn and his wife take the time to thoroughly clean, organize and upgrade the building that houses the closet. A popular program, the closet provides numerous articles that can be loaned to residents at no cost from baby beds to wheelchairs.

Vohn is supported in his efforts by Ann Steinlage, who is a committed volunteer as well. Along with assisting Vohn with his projects, she finds time to be a commissioner for the Improvement District.

The next time you see Vohn, please extend a big thank-you to him.



Vohn Steinlage



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Golf News

Men's Golf Association

The Spring Lake Men's Golf Association (SLMGA) was organized over 20 years ago to promote good golf, good fellowship and sportsmanship. The organization achieves this by conducting a weekly league, having tournaments, developing and maintaining handicaps and conducting social events. The organization is governed by a constitution and bylaws developed by the membership and officers are elected each year. A monthly meeting is held the first Tuesday of each month at the home of the organization, Spring Lake Golf Resort.

You do not have to be a member of the resort to join SLMGA. To participate in all activities, there is an annual membership fee and all league and tournament golf is paid as required. The Association currently has a membership of over 200. If you are new to the area, or have not joined before, there is no better way to get acquainted and make friends than through SLMGA.

The Association plays twice a week during the winter and

once a week during the summer months, usually Tuesday and Thursday. Special events, the Club Championship, outings with the Women's Association and other activities are held throughout the year.

If you would like to join, or need more information, please contact one of our Board members: Ron Von Colln, president (655-0520); Paul Marchand (655-2447); Jan Hard (655-1605); or Gale Monday (655-3561).

Ladies' Golf Association

The Spring Lake Ladies' Golf Association has been playing at Spring Lake Golf Resort for many years. A weekly league is held on Wednesday and many special events and tournaments

are conducted throughout the year. The members also have the opportunity to play and represent Spring Lake in the County Interclub, which is held at different golf courses on a monthly basis.

It is easy to sign up and be a member. Just stop by the Clubhouse on any Wednesday morning and get information or contact the president, Marg Bates, at 655-9263. Other officers include Vice President Bernie Ray, Secretary Marsi Benson, Treasurer Jean Donahue and members at large Nancy Ostapowicz, Jane Burgoyne and past President Linda Pflieger.

Each week, pairings are determined by handicap, so all level of players can participate. Each week a different game is played, determined by the tournament directors. The competition is fun and relaxing and USGA rules are followed.

The 12 Holes Of Sebring To Benefit — The YMCA

Be sure to make your reservations early for the 5th annual 12 Holes of Sebring golf outing. This popular event is partnering with the Sebring International Raceway and each registration for the outing receives a four-day super ticket valued at \$90. Along with the standard raffles and prizes, over a dozen free vacations throughout the country are being given away, including Las Vegas, Hawaii and the Bahamas. A welcome packet will also be given to each golfer, compliments of Marriott Vacation Club.



The outing will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24 with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start at the Sebring Golf Club. The event is limited, so reservations will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. The format will be a two-person flighted scramble. As is the custom with this event, while you play 18 holes, six unknown holes are eliminated and your score is based on the remaining 12 holes.

Dr. John Caruso is the outing chairman and Golf Pro Tom McClurg will handle the host activities at the Sebring Golf Club. For more information and registration forms, please contact the Y at 382-9622.

Certified Public Accountants

Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co.

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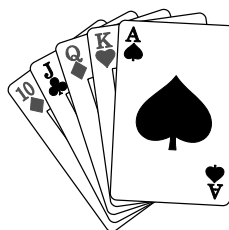
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Bridge Club

What would a community be without a bridge club? It seems this popular card game gains momentum wherever it starts. Years ago, as a result of the efforts of Lydia Hoelt and the Spring Lake Craft and Social Club, an afternoon group was formed. Lydia often gave bridge lessons to get additional players.



From this group of players, an evening program was

developed by residents Bob and Dot Emerson, Cliff and Jean Mitchell, Wilma Cowell, Pug Martin and Jake and Colleen Goodman. At one time this group attracted as many as 50 players.

Today, the bridge group is much smaller but has every intention of growing. The group plays every other Thursday in the Community Center. The next event is scheduled for Feb. 15 at 6:45 p.m. If you are interested in joining, please contact Wilma Cowell at 655-2465 or Rachel Green at 655-4562.

Call and get in on the fun!

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Ryder Cup Format Comes To Spring Lake

John Delaney and Chubby Prchal grew up in Indiana and have remained lifelong friends. Today, John is a full-time resident in Spring Lake, and Chubby owns a rental villa and travels here several times a year. Several years ago, the two friends decided they needed to have an annual event that matched golfers from Chubby's circle of friends with golfers from Spring Lake in a Ryder Cup format. They decided to name it the "Chubster Invitational Golf Outing" and conduct it the second weekend of December each year. The

competition itself has been referred to as the Bagger Vance matches and is conducted in a similar fashion to the famous Ryder Cup matches.

The second annual Bagger Vance matches were held Dec. 8 and 9. Golfers traveled from five different states to compete with local Spring Lake golfers. The out-of-town golfers represented Team National and the local golfers were Team Florida. Each team had 28 golfers. Events included an opening dinner at Duffers Sports Grille and a closing dinner at

Michael's clubhouse restaurant. In between there was lots of golf, laughing and a great time. A special Texas Hold 'em Tournament was held one night and, by coincidence, we all got to see the launching of the shuttle on Saturday evening.

For the second year in a row, Team Florida was victorious and gets to keep the Bagger Vance trophy in Spring Lake. Plans are under way for the 2007 event and a possible event this summer in Indiana is also being discussed.



Team Florida



Team National

Redesigned Web Site

Spring Lake Improvement District has taken the final steps in the redesign of its Web site, which will enhance accessibility, efficiency and image on the Internet. The site guides you through all the services, programs and latest news

about the District. The site is being managed and updated by Josh Little of Sane Solutions Inc. The site will have a message board for interactive capability, as well as work order forms for residents to complete and send to the District for problems

they are having.

Please visit our site at www.springlakeimprovement.com. For questions, suggestions or comments, please contact our Webmaster, josh@sanamedia.net or call him at 257-3411.



Changes are in the Breeze at Golf View Village

Builders Association Awards received:
Best Over all Design
Best Interior Design
Best Master Bedroom Suite
Best and Most Innovative Floor Plan

After almost two years of planning, development and construction, Golf View Village has achieved success on many fronts and is coming to life! Our Bermuda Villa Model accessed from Kenwood Drive, received design and construction awards. See for yourself that it's a wonderful place to call home.

After considering the different needs of individuals, we've expanded the selection of homes in Golf View Village to satisfy more people's lifestyles. Now you can choose from new plans including "Maintenance Free" Single Family Homes, Resort Villas and a variety of Condo/Townhomes. All surround our very own "Spring Lake" and/or overlook the unparalleled Spring Lake Golf Resort.

We welcome you to preview our new plans of Golf View Village and we look forward to hearing from you.

For additional information call our sales department at 800.635.7277 or 863-655-0900.

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No Boil Orders Here

Spring Lake residents are very fortunate to have the quality water system that has been in place for many years. When you read about the number of boil orders that other communities have, you begin to appreciate our water plant. Drawing from two artesian wells drilled 1,000 feet deep into the Florida aquifer, Spring Lake's water plant has long been recognized for providing an abundance of safe, cool, clear water to its residents.

In 1971, the first water plant was constructed and had 85,000 gallons in above ground storage, and a design flow of 150,000 gallons per day. Water mains and service lines were first installed in Village I and continued installation occurred as the other villages developed.

In 1983, due to projected growth, a new water plant was

designed that had above ground storage of 250,000 gallons and a flow of 500,000 gallons per day. As the community expanded, another 400,000-gallon tank was added. Today, Spring Lake has a design flow of nearly one million gallons per day!

With one of the lowest usage rates in Central Florida, \$1.43 per 1,000 gallons, Spring Lake is positioned to provide water to countless new customers in the future, and ensure the continued growth of our community. In spite of the size and scope of our water plant, only two people oversee operations. Greg Gretz has been with the District for nearly 25 years and is our water department supervisor. He is assisted by J.R. Clarke, who has been with us for six years. Both of these men are very committed to providing quality water and services to our community.

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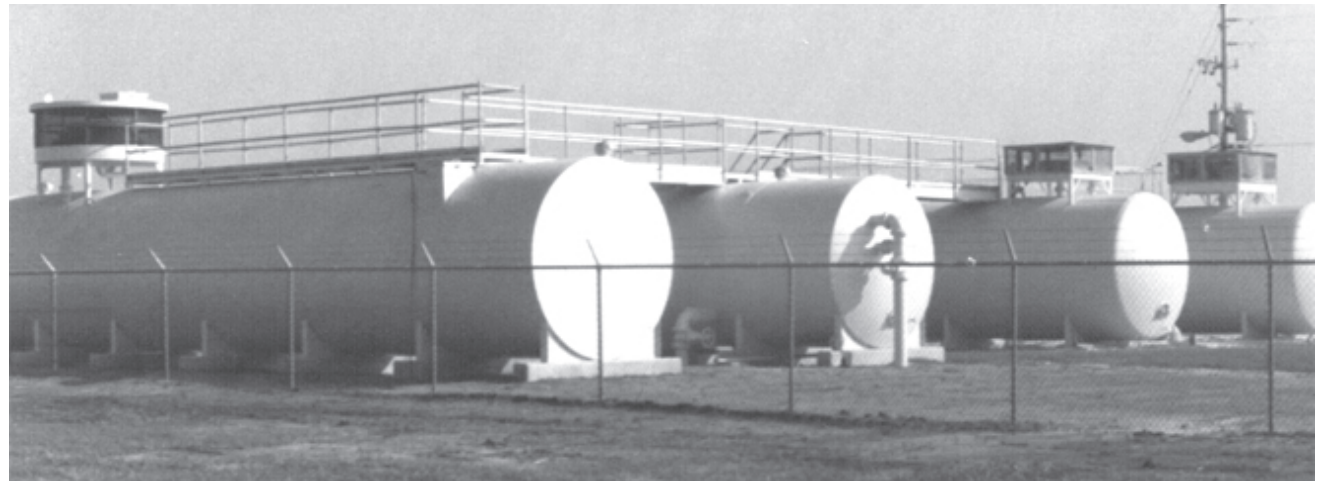
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February 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				6:45 p.m. Bridge Club 1	6 p.m. Bingo 2	Lake Placid Arts And Crafts Fair 3
Super Bowl 4	5	Men's Golf League 6 p.m. Supper Club 6	Ladies' Golf League 7	Men's Golf League 8	6 p.m. Bingo Highlands County Fair Begins, Through the 17th 9	Sebring Roaring '20s Arts And Crafts Fair 10
11	7:30 p.m. Property Association Meeting 12	Men's Golf League 6 p.m. Lorida Fire Department 13	Ladies' Golf League 3:30 p.m. SLID Meeting Valentine's Day 14	Men's Golf League 6:45 p.m. Bridge Club 15	6 p.m. Bingo 16	17
18	Presidents Day 19	Men's Golf League 20	Ladies' Golf League Ash Wednesday 21	Men's Golf League 22	6 p.m. Bingo 23	Avon Park Legends Race Ft. Meade Antique Engine And Tractor Show 24
25	26	Men's Golf League 27	Ladies' Golf League 28			

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