

# Spring Lake BREEZE

*Florida... the way it should be!*



## **Chairman's Message**

*Brian Acker, Chairman - Board of Supervisors*

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the Spring Lake Improvement District. My wife, Marjorie, and I moved to Spring Lake in 2003, built a home and enjoy the rural character of the community. We both have backgrounds in public service and as small business owners.

The dramatic flooding that impacted the community in 2006 as a result of tropical storm Ernesto inspired me to become more involved in the community. I was appointed to serve in a popularly elected seat vacated by Joe Smith in January 2007 and have served on the Board of Supervisors since that time. As Chairman I am committed to finding solutions for the benefit of residents and landowners, and encourage public participation and comment.

The District faces many challenges. The major challenge concerns our water control program. This program is mandated by South Florida Water Management District [SFWMD] and involves such things as: the Arbuckle Creek levee, canals, water storage and retention areas, pump station, drainage infrastructure, land acquisition, easements and a variety of other issues. The Board and staff are working diligently with a number of agencies including Highlands County staff, SFWMD, the Sebring Airport Authority, Florida Department of Transportation, and US Department of Agriculture, and others towards the completion of this complex program.

Mr. Leon Van left the Board after over eight years of service and I wish to recognize and thank him for all the work he has done on behalf of this community. I also wish to welcome Arlene Klingbiel who has been elected to the landowner seat vacated by Mr. Van. I look forward to working with her, the other Board members, and staff as we face the challenges of the future.



## **New Supervisor Elected**

*Arlene Klingbiel*

At the November 14, 2012 Landowner meeting Mrs. Arlene Klingbiel was elected to a three year term on the District Board of Supervisors. Arlene replaces 8-year Supervisor Leon Van who retired from the Board. We sincerely welcome Arlene to the Board.

Arlene and her husband, Jeff, have been residents of Spring Lake for 5 years; moving here from Lansing, Michigan. She worked for the Michigan State University Department of Criminal Justice as the Administrative Assistant/Supervisor. Her financial and personnel background in the workplace will be valuable to the Board and the District. Arlene has already spent a number of hours acclimating herself as a Supervisor and has met with Management staff to discuss the works of the District.

Arlene and Jeff have two children and one grandchild who live back in Michigan. In her spare time Arlene enjoys golf, scrapbooking, sewing, walking, and bike riding.



## ***Diane Angell***

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**Diane joined the Spring Lake Improvement District on December 7, 1987, and is celebrating her 25th anniversary with the District.**

Over the years Diane has performed a myriad of duties and responsibilities for the District, often times put in a position of “on the job training!!” She has always been willing to assume any and all job functions, and over these 25 years has probably had more different functions than anyone on staff.

Currently serving as District Administrator she manages and oversees the daily business and finances of the District, and serves as the District Treasurer. Her knowledge, experience, and expertise is invaluable to the successful operation of the District, and her positive attitude brings sunshine to all who work with her.

Born and raised in San Jose, California she moved to Sebring in 1986 from Texas. Diane has been married for 28 years to husband Jay, who works for the City of Sebring Water Department. They have two children and a grandchild. Outside of work, Diane enjoys digital photography, scrap-booking, and spending time with her grandson.

***We thank Diane for 25 years of service, and look forward to the years ahead.***

## ***Board of Supervisors***

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At the November 14, 2012 Landowners Meeting new Supervisor Arlene Klingbiel took her oath of office and the Supervisors elected officers.

Pictured left to right are: **Secretary, Tim McKenna; Chairman, Brian Acker; Arlene Klingbiel; Past Chairman, Bill Lawens; and Gary Behrendt, Vice-Chairman. We thank the Board for their time, dedication, and concern for their community.**



*Lollie Norris*

## ***Historical Documents Preserved***

No one knew more than Lollie Norris about the history and development of Spring Lake. When she first arrived in Spring Lake in the 1970's no one but a true dreamer could envision what would take place in the coming years. Lollie saw and experienced all of it. Starting out as an Associate of Spring Lake Realty, and then becoming its owner, Lollie personified the real estate broker of that time. Whether it was the sale of land, purchase of a house, a rental, or just showing people the area, Lollie was the Queen Bee!!!

Many people knew that Lollie kept everything that was ever written in the newspapers, pamphlets developed by builders, legal notices, pictures, newsletters, and community papers. She actually had the full history of Spring Lake in her file cabinets, bookshelves, and desk drawers. Some of the maps she had on her walls went so far back that the only homes you could see were the ones in Village I. It was a treasure to behold.

Lollie, seen here in a 1975 picture, passed away last year. All of her collections have found a home at the Spring Lake Improvement District Office. What a pleasant surprise it was to have multiple boxes brought to the office for our care and preservation. It is our intention to scan every item Lollie collected, organize them, and put them all on our website. Some of the better preserved pictures and maps will be framed and put on the walls of the office for the public to see.

We sincerely thank Lollie for preserving our history, and for her family in trusting us to preserve her legacy.

# Bits & Pieces

*Useful information and data for our residents*

- BEWARE: Some of our residents are being approached by Water Filter Companies using scare tactics about our District Water Supply. Some of these filters are upwards of \$5,000. There are also companies trying to sell water line insurance. District water meets all State and Federal Guidelines; if you are approached by one of these companies and have questions, do not hesitate to contact our Water Department.
- A set of keys were found in Pine Breeze Park, next to the playground. Come to the District Office and identify the keys if they are yours. You can call the office at 655-1715 for details.
- Our thanks to Bob Fromhartz, Robert Padden, and Cal Swisher, Sr. for the beautiful pictures of animals and wildlife they have discovered and captured on film. We will use their pictures in The Breeze whenever space permits.
- Since the last issue of The Breeze there have been three incidences of tampering with water meters. This is an illegal act and will result in a \$100 fine plus the cost of damaged items. You must contact the District Office for water to be turned on or off. This is not a negotiated regulation.....it is the law!!

## Improved Drainage



Several residents on Coral Ridge wanted to improve the drainage in front of their homes and asked the District for assistance. After securing a permit from Highlands County a survey team from the County established the necessary grade and the pipes were installed and back filled by the District. The residents were responsible for the cost of the drainage pipes as well as the sod that had to be replaced. There are a number of homes where standing water is often a problem at the end of their lot, near the street. The District Board of Supervisors, along with the District Engineer, will be developing a Resolution that fully outlines the process residents can go thru to correct localized flooding and what the District may be able to do to assist.

## Water Control Projects

Drainage Superintendent Randy Nelson is shown working on a water control maintenance project using District equipment. As a result of Randy being well versed in the operation of heavy equipment the District is saving tens of thousands of dollars for its residents by doing much of the drainage maintenance work "in house" rather than contracting the work out. All projects are approved and overseen by our District Engineer, Gene Schriener.



## In Spring Lake

*all of these pictures were taken in our parks*



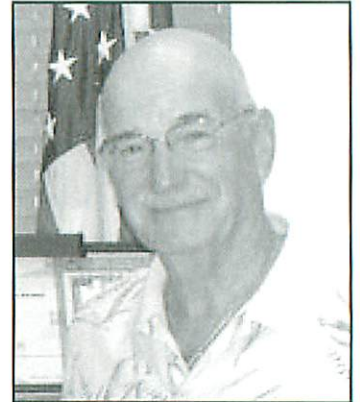
## SPRING LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

115 Spring Lake Blvd.  
Sebring, FL 33876  
863.655.1715 phone  
863.655.4430 fax

### **Thank You for Your Service** \_\_\_\_\_

After over 8 years on the District Board of Supervisors, Leon Van chose not to seek re-election. The following statement was read by Mr. Van and placed into the public record.

"On September 8, 2004, I replaced Dan Childers on the SLID Board of Supervisors. I've had the privilege of serving our community for 8 years and 3 months. I have worked with 13 different supervisors, served fewer than 4 Chairmen, and been Chairmen of the Board for 3 terms. During my time on the Board, I have been honored to meet many different people, from individual voters to a Congressman. I've worked with numerous Board consultants and many, many wonderful District employees, both past and present. I represented the District as Board Chairman in the settlement of the Tyrell litigation. I also served on Boards that worked on the Water Control Plan, FEMA flood maps, the Charter update, the USDA loan process, Water Plant and Maintenance Facility upgrades, the Airport water plan, and many other District projects. I've served on Boards that were accused of being dumb, liars, self-serving and even of taking money under the table. But the most memorable comments from the Spring Lake Community were the Thank You and the appreciations expressed for the hard work and dedication of all Board members. I want to thank my friend and District Manager Joe DeCerbo for the great job he has done for our Community and his commitment and support to all Board Supervisors. I will continue to support this Board in its endeavors to make Spring Lake the best possible community and will always help in any way you need to ask. Finally, I want to leave this Board with the words of Mother Teresa that I have tried to follow: What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough; give the work the best you have anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway."



Thank you for the service you provided to your community and, most importantly, being part of the solution.



### **District Engineer's Update** \_\_\_\_\_

District Engineer Gene Schriener attended the December 12th Board meeting and updated the Board and staff on the status of our water control plan and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiative. Gene is President of Craig A. Smith & Associates and his offices are located in Boca Raton. Gene has been the District Engineer for Spring Lake since 2006 and has overseen a number of important projects and activities vital to our District. It is mandated by the State of Florida that all Special Districts contract with a certified engineer who will manage any and all engineering issues and reports will be submitted to the local Board of Supervisors and the District Manager. Spring Lake has been very fortunate to have an engineer who does whatever he can to cut costs for services and allow District staff to assist on projects and reports that would normally require other paid consultants; this saves our District a lot of tax dollars. Anyone wishing to review the water control plan; preliminary engineering report; conceptual permit; and other engineering projects can do so in our public records room at the District Office at no cost, or copies can be provided per public records price lists.