

Spring Lake BREEZE

Florida... the way it should be!



Water Plant #2 Rehabilitation

With funding provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Spring Lake will have a full-service water plant to complement the original water plant. This redundancy will provide and protect the District for generations to come. The plant was originally constructed for the now demolished Power Plant and sold to the District for \$200,000. Renovations are expected to be just under \$5 million, half of what it would cost to build a new plant. Construction will take between 15 and 18 months.

Pictured L-R: District Engineer Gene Schriener; Supervisor Bill Lawens; Board Chairman Tim McKenna; County Board Chairman Kathy Rapp; Supervisor Brian Acker; Engineer Greg Giarratana.



SAVE
the
DATE

Spring Lake Festival



Saturday
October 29

Pine Breeze Park

District Cybersecurity

The District takes the security of our electronic systems seriously, and we work with our IT specialists to ensure the integrity of those systems. Management staff recently participated in a workshop with our IT person to review the security standards that are in place, and what needs to be expanded.

The Legislature passed a bill in this session that requires local governments to review, analyze, and address any cybersecurity issues. Further, this bill prohibits local governments from paying or otherwise complying with ransomware demand. Just as you do with your own documents and pictures, they can be stored in "the cloud." Our IT team has additional backups to District data that will reduce the exposure we have to any ransomware issues.

The Preferred Government Insurance Trust, which we are part of, provides the District with a wealth of resources to train our staff in the protection of our information and data.

How Are Utility Rates Established?

The Florida Rural Water Association is an organization that was created many years ago to assist communities that have water and wastewater systems. This statewide organization is affiliated with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and provides a myriad of services and programs to local communities.

FRWA has been assisting Spring Lake for nearly 15 years in developing our rates and fees and has provided superb consultation and training to our staff and Board.

On an almost yearly basis FRWA conducts a very detailed analysis of our utility system to ensure that there are sufficient reserves to handle repairs and replacement, and adequate income for operational purposes. They prepare a lengthy report and present it to the District for our budget discussions.

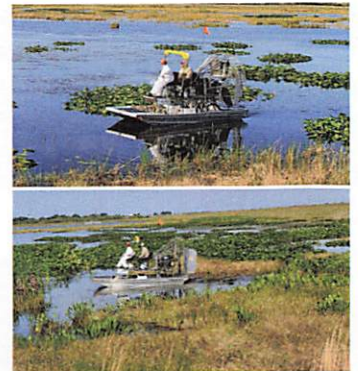
Additionally, FRWA does what is called an Asset Management Plan to ensure that our facilities are properly funded over a 10-year period. This Plan was done in 2021 and along with the rates and fees study formed the basis for the current costs.

Both documents are public record, and copies are available at the District Office. All meetings to determine rates and fees must be legally noticed and a public hearing must be held to secure public input.

Aquatic Spraying At The ECO Park

Highlands County uses their equipment for hard-to-reach places and assists the District at least once a year. We thank the County for their help

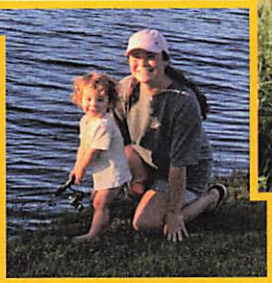
The District received funding from Federal and State agencies, as well as Legislative Appropriations, to construct a Storm Water Treatment Area (STA). The sole purpose of the STA was to provide retention and storage of storm water from our District, and to have plantings that extracted nitrogen and phosphorous from the water prior to it going thru the pump station and into Lake Istokpoga and Lake Okeechobee. The Aquatic Spraying that is done eliminates vegetation that hinders this extraction. The monitoring of the water quality is conducted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District. All chemicals used are approved by the Florida Department of Agriculture and inspected on a regular basis. No chemicals negatively impact fish, wildlife, or the environment. Rather than just have a large body of water for retention and storage the District received funding from Highlands County to put in the multi-use path and the Park amenities. The STA has received both State and National Awards for high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous being removed, and the positive impact being made on water quality and the environment. The ECO Park remains the most popular and most used area in the District.



Pictures from Around the District



Karen and Bob Palino pick up debris. THANK YOU!



Meghan Hamilton and 2 yr. old Saylor enjoy ECO park



Another beautiful sunrise at the ECO Park





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OPENING 2022

2021 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Spring Lake Improvement District

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is three wells that draw water from the Floridan aquifer. Before delivery to you, the water is disinfected with chlorine and a blend of phosphate is added to inactivate or sequester mineral ions naturally found in water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Clay R. Shrum Director of Operations at (863) 655-1715. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. This report will be mailed to customers in the Spring Lake Breeze and is also available at the District Office, located at 115 Spring Lake Boulevard. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the Spring Lake District Office.

Spring Lake Improvement District routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2021. Also included are test results in earlier years for contaminants sampled less often than annually. For contaminants not required to be tested for in 2021, test results are for the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations authorized by the state and approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or on-line at their web site www.epa.gov/safewater/.

As water travels over the land or underground it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring, or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

To remain in compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act we are required to test for over 80 contaminants. Reported below are only those that were detected through laboratory analysis. The remaining approximately 70 contaminants were undetected. In the data table you will find many terms you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following key to these terms' abbreviations and definitions:

TERM Appearing in TABLE		DEFINITION
Action Level	AL	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
Not Applicable	n/a	Does not apply
Parts per million	ppm	or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part by weight of contaminant to one million parts by weight of the water sample.
Parts per billion	ppb	or Micrograms per liter (µg/l) – one part by weight of contaminant to one billion parts by weight of the water sample.
Picocuries per liter	pCi/L	picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water
Maximum Contaminant Level	MCL	The "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	MCLG	The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	MRDL	The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	MRDLG	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

In 2021 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. These assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. A search of the data sources indicated two potential sources with a low susceptibility of contamination. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at <https://fdep.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>.

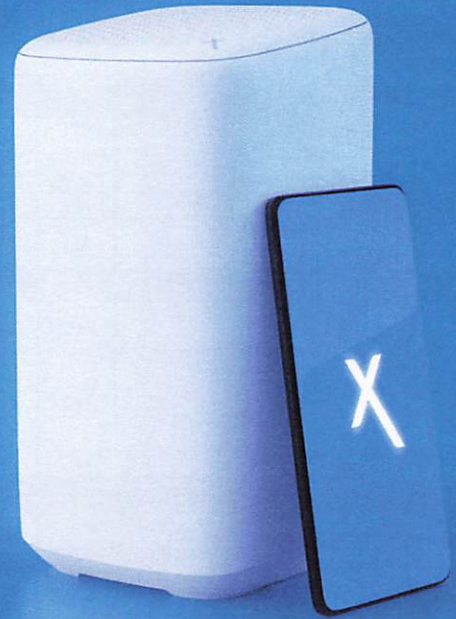
2021 Compliance Monitoring							
** Results in the Level Detected column for Radioactive and Inorganic contaminants are the highest detected level at any sampling point.							
Radioactive Contaminants							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCL Violation Yes/No	Level Detected **	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Monitoring Period Month/Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	No	8.23	N/A	0	15	06/20	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 and Radium 228 or combined Radium (pCi/l)	No	3.351	N/A	0	5	06/20	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	No	0.104	N/A	2	2	06/20	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	No	0.28	N/A	4	4	06/20	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	No	16.9	N/A	n/a	160	06/20	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products (D/DBP)							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	1/21 - 12/21	NO	1.23	0.675 to 1.7	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Stage 2 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products (D/DBP)							
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	08/21	NO	16.6	10.1 to 16.6	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	08/21	NO	54.0	32 to 54	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Action Level Violation Yes/No	90th Percentile Result	Number of Sampling Sites Exceeding the Action Level	MCLG	Action Level	Dates of sampling Month/Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	No	0.5	0	0	15	06/20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	No	0.056	0	1.3	AL=1.3	06/20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Spring Lake Improvement District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We at the Spring Lake Improvement District would like for you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.

Esta es información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Si no comprende completamente el documento en inglés, es posible que podamos traducirlo al español para usted. Para más información, llame al (863) 655-1715.

Xfinity is coming soon to Spring Lake



Later this year, join the millions who save by getting Xfinity Internet and Mobile together.

Xfinity delivers supersonic in-home WiFi with speeds faster than a Gig. That's more than enough speed to power a houseful of devices. Plus, get connected to the most reliable 5G wireless network nationwide with Xfinity Mobile. Get them both, and you could save up to \$400 a year on your wireless bill. That's an Unbeatable connection. Made to do anything so you can do anything.

Savings compared to weighted average of top 3 carriers based on optimized pricing of Xfinity Mobile By the Gig and Unlimited data options. Xfinity Internet required. Reduced speeds after 20 GB of usage/line. Actual savings vary.

xfinity

Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. **Internet:** Gig-speed WiFi shareable across devices. Gig-speed WiFi requires Gigabit Internet and compatible xFi Gateway. Actual speeds vary and not guaranteed. Many factors affect speed, including equipment performance, interference, congestion, and speeds of visited websites. WiFi speeds affected by additional factors, including distance from Gateway, home configuration, personal device capabilities, and others. For factors affecting speed visit www.xfinity.com/networkmanagement. All devices must be returned when service ends. **Xfinity Mobile:** Requires residential post-pay Xfinity Internet service. Line limitations may apply. For Xfinity Mobile Broadband Disclosures visit: www.xfinity.com/mobile/policies/broadband-disclosures. Actual savings vary and are not guaranteed. Xfinity Mobile utilizes the network with the most RootMetrics 5G data reliability wins in 2H 2021. Results may vary. Award is not endorsement. Xfinity customers will auto-connect to Xfinity WiFi when available and not use the wireless network. RootMetrics did not test WiFi networks. Call for restrictions and complete details. © 2022 Comcast. All rights reserved.



BITS AND PIECES

- If you still don't have your copy of the 50th Anniversary booklet and key chain, be sure to stop by the District Office.
- The Bulk and Yard Waste calendar is available at the District Office or you can go to www.highlandsfl.gov and it is on the lower front page. It is also on the SLPA site at www.springlakepropertyassociation.com
- There are very strict rules enforced by the Florida Forest Service on burning. Be sure you secure a burn permit by calling the Desoto City branch at 655-6407
- Whether you refer to it as the ECO Village, INN the Woods, or the Sebring Institute, it is one of the most unique projects you will ever see. Located directly north of Rt. 98 and Thunder Road, there are two small signs and a driveway that takes you to this paradise in the woods. Food and drinks are available as well. Check it out by going to the video at **The Sebring Institute – You Tube**
- There are now 94 dogs on the mural at the Bark Park restroom. A few more spaces are still available, contact artist Maureen Fulginiti at 954-994-8644
- The fiscal year 2023 budget is being prepared for presentation to the Board of Supervisors. The first draft will be at the June 8 meeting; the second draft at the July 13 meeting; and a public hearing on the final draft on August 10th. The public is welcome to attend all meetings at the District Office beginning at 10:00 a.m.
- Each month a Developer Update is published with the Board Packets. To view this and other items, simply go to www.springlakefl.com and look under Agenda. This is where you will get the most accurate and up to date information.
- Speeding continues to be a problem that is very difficult to control, and it is up to individuals to take personal responsibility. The Sheriff's Department recently put a lighted speed sign on Spring Lake Blvd. to warn offenders.
- The Pawsitively Dog Club wants to determine the number of dogs in our community. Please participate and send your name, and your dog's name, to Monica Griffith at her e-mail address: flgirlintnworld@gmail.com. Your help with this project is appreciated.
- One of the best apps offered to residents is available by going to your App Store and search Highlands County Sheriff's Department. There is an incredible amount of information available that is updated in real time and is very helpful.


Do You Know the Difference?

Spring Lake Improvement District: In 1971 the District was created by a special act of the State Legislature, and the Westinghouse Corporation began to develop the land. As a unit of government, SLID acts like a municipality, except in the matters of land use, zoning, development codes, and police and fire protection. These services are provided by Highlands County. SLID is responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the water management system for drainage and water control. It is also responsible for the water and sewer systems, pump station, parks, community center, lot mowing, medians and right of ways, mosquito control, aquatic spraying, and street lighting. An annual assessment is paid to the District and appears on the County Tax Bill. As a unit of government, the Board of Supervisors are duly elected and consist of five people; three are voted as landowner positions, and two are voted in a popular election. The District hires a District Manager who oversees the works of the District. The web site for the District, which details programs, services, and updates can be viewed at www.springlakefl.com

Spring Lake Property Association: Originally called the Spring Lake Homeowners Association, the name was changed in 1971. Residents and landowners in Villages 1 thru 6 are part of the Association. The purpose of the SLPA is to enforce the Deed of Restrictions for each Village. This includes approval of plans, specifications, location of new homes, and ensuring properly maintained residences and properties. A volunteer Board of Directors oversees the SLPA and they meet the second Monday of each month, 6:00, at the SLPA offices or the Community Center. Refer to www.springlakepropertyassociation.com

Homeowners Associations: There are five formally active HOA's in the District and consist of: Country Club Villas; Waterway Patio Homes 1; Waterway Patio Homes 2; Oakleafe; and Lakeside Estates (Village 8). Each of these HOA's have their own set of bylaws and deed restrictions and are all overseen by a Board of Directors and a Manager. A monthly maintenance fee is paid to the HOA.

Others: If you are not in Villages 1 thru 6, or part of the five HOA's, you are in one of the 8 other HOA's that are not active. Despite having bylaws and deed restrictions, once the developer turned his project over to the HOA (on paper!), they are inactive with no board, no meetings, and no deed restriction controls. There are no monthly fees since the HOA is not active. More than likely these HOA's are no longer recognized by the State because they have never updated their HOA paperwork. Examples include, but are not limited to: Fairway Lakes, which extends from 321 Duane Palmer to Spring Lake Blvd. and the homes in the Concord Street/Bridgeview area, just off of Duane Palmer.



IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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

LEAVE THOSE METERS ALONE!!

Meter Turn On/Off Policy:

The Spring Lake Utility Department will turn water service on or off, free of charge, during normal working hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Residents needing water services turned on or off after 4:00 p.m., during the weekend, or during a holiday, will be charged a \$40 service fee to have a utility worker complete the service request. Residents who have pre-scheduled plumbing services must notify the District Office at 863-655-1715 **PRIOR** to the plumber's arrival.

What is Meter Tampering?

Meter tampering is any action to the meter and/or the utility shut-off valve located in front of the meter without prior authorization. This includes turning a meter on or off, removing a meter, hooking up a meter illegally, or any other action performed to change a meter's reading. All cases of meter tampering will be subject to a \$100 meter tampering penalty. If there are any damages to the meter valve and/or to any piping, it will be the homeowner's responsibility to pay for any costs associated with the repair prior to restoration of water service.

If you suspect your meter has been tampered with or broken, immediately contact the District Office at 863-655-1715. A Utility Technician will be dispatched to assess damages and make the necessary repairs, which are the responsibility of the homeowner.



THE DISTRICT PROVIDES A YEAR-ROUND 24-HOUR UTILITY SERVICE

What is Cross Connection?

Every time any connection such as piping, equipment, hoses, etc. are made to the drinking water system, a cross connection occurs. The connection can be permanent, such as an irrigation system, or temporary, such as a garden hose connected to a faucet. When cross connections are not properly protected with a special mechanical device or some other means, used water can be pulled or pushed back into the drinking water supply. That water can be dirty or can contain bacteria or chemicals that are harmful to human health. Other common cross connections include dishwashers, toilets, pressure washers, swimming pools, solar heaters, and fountains.

Please contact the District Office at 863-655-1715 for additional information.

Pickleball Courts

The District Board has approved the construction of six pickleball courts on what is now the tennis courts. A matching grant of \$90,000 was secured from the County Parks and Recreation Committee, with the balance coming from the Parks reserve account. The District Engineer is putting together a scope of work and will be working with the contractor on design. Given the current supply and demand situation that exists everywhere, the courts may not get installed until the Fall. In the meantime, there are two courts that are used frequently and will remain open until new construction begins.