



# Spring Lake BREEZE

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## Shine Little Glo Ball; Glimmer, Glimmer..

By Debbie Delaney

No! Glowing Green Martians did not invade Spring Lake when Marg and Tom Bates and Rita and Patrick Jaskowski organized the first Spring Lake Glow Ball Tournament. Rob and Carole Frederick registered and issued each member a bag containing Glo ball accessories and Rita explained how to activate the equipment and rules for the event. The golfers got creative by placing green Glo bands around their necks, arms and on their heads like halos. With Glo golf balls activated, Glo bands and flashlights in hand, 36 golfers drove their carts onto the Cougar golf course and into the dark night to compete for nine holes. Bug spray was applied generously to fool the swarms of mosquitoes dining on the swatting golfers! The bridges and fairways were lined with Glo sticks to light a safe way and tees were moved forward to reduce lost golf balls and to preserve having fun.

Driving tee to green, the fairways were lit like night



Team members Jean Kennedy, Joann Deweese, Ed Clay



Glo Ball Tournament players

runways and watching the yellow-green glow of each ball fly through the dark was fun for all. After nine holes the bug-bitten golf survivors returned to the clubhouse for refreshments, exchanging golf stories and waiting for the tournament results.

Winners of the event were Jeff and Arni Klingbiel and Ron and Louise VonColln. Tying for second place were the teams of Wiley and Pam Ferguson and Bill and Kathie

Lawens, as well as the team of Tom and Marg Bates and Patrick and Rita Jaskowski. Fourth place went to the team of Bob and Dotti Blackwell and Don and Jodi Cunning. A special last place award went to the team of Charlie Keniston and Julia Starr and Bob Hinde and Bernie Ray.

Event organizer Rita said, "We plan on doing another one probably in February when the snowbirds are here and not so many bugs!"

## Thankful

By Rev. Katie Treadway

I am thankful. When I came to Spring Lake Presbyterian Church over four years ago, I did not understand gratitude in quite the same way as I do these days. About a year into my service as pastor, a member of the church approached me and reminded me, very gently, of the importance of saying "thank you." As Christians we are taught to do everything with gratitude in our hearts, giving thanks to God in all things (Colossians 3:16-17). It is true, however, that the face of Christianity, or of any religion for that manner, does not always reflect a continual graciousness toward life. Faith-based though we may be, we hypocritically begin to take many things for granted. We take it for granted that volunteers will show up to provide a glass of water for the pastor on Sunday mornings, or our lawn guy will do an exceptional job. We take it for granted that the bus driver will drive carefully or that the golf course will be kept neat and clean.

In the same way, we also take it for granted that we

Thankful on page 2

## Protecting Eagles

One of the wonderful advantages of living in the Spring Lake area is the abundance of birds and other wildlife. In several of our parks eagles have built their nests and they can often be seen flying over our community. In early October an eagle was found in distress and the proper agency was contacted to assist; it was discovered that the eagle was blind and would need protection and care. David and Karen Wrede willingly accepted the responsibility of caring for our eagle.

Few places in Florida will nurse wild bald Eagles back to health like David and Karen do at their Wrede Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. They fix the wings of Eagles, owls, hawks and geese that are all native to our area. On the side, he even houses a few peacocks, cougars, and a lone coyote.

There are three eagles at the Center that cannot be released because of blindness and other permanent injuries. David and Karen are looking for volunteers to help some of the close to 1,000 animals that go thru their rehab center at Wilderness Trail south of Sebring. They have been running the



Center for more than 18 years but David said that they have had to slow down because of health problems and are concentrating mostly on birds. They are hopeful that new volunteers will help him expand the Center's efforts with mammals and reptiles.

"If I had more volunteers I could take in 30 percent more animals. I recently had an open house and some wildlife and animal enthusiasts showed up but only one of them committed to help and a few others are considering it. These volunteers are needed not only for animal care but also for cage construction, fundraising, and helping rescue injured birds and animals."

Anyone interested in volunteering, visiting the Center, or making a donation, please call David and Karen at 385-2770.

## Meeting Dates Established

The Spring Lake Improvement District Board of Supervisors has established their meeting dates and times beginning with the November Landowners meeting. All meetings are open to the public and are held at the District Offices at 115 Spring Lake Blvd. The Board meetings will begin at 3 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

Any public hearings or workshops will be held prior to the Board meetings and will be published in the legal notices of the Sun-Times. The Breeze will be used to publish any special meetings if the timing coincides with publication. All meeting minutes are available to the public after the Board approves them.

Meeting dates are: Nov. 12 (landowners annual meeting), Dec. 10, Jan. 14, 2009, Feb. 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9, Oct. 14.

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*Thankful from page 1*

are alive and breathing today, that we can watch the sun rise every morning, that we have beautiful winter weather, and that we have been blessed with a quiet place to live. Whenever we forget what it is to be thankful, to be gracious for even life itself despite its struggles, someone approaches us and reminds us, very gently, of the importance of saying "thank you." What a wonderful life we do live as we grow

in relationship with God and our neighbors.

One important way to say thank you to neighbors is to recognize when they need some help. The Spring Lake Presbyterian Church houses a community food pantry to help those who may have to choose between buying groceries and paying bills. We want to say thank you to our neighbors by sharing what we have with them when times are a little bit lean. If you or a neighbor need some help, please feel free to stop by the Church, just east of the Dollar General, Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8 in the morning



until noon. You may also call the Church office at 655-0713 to schedule another time when someone can provide you with food from the pantry ... we expect nothing in return!

The Spring Lake Presbyterian Church welcomes the opportunity to be a community Church and we offer numerous opportunities for spiritual questions and growth. I look forward to future articles in *The Breeze* to share with my fellow residents the various programs and activities everyone is invited to, regardless of your faith.

Peace be with you.

## Spring Lake Relay For Life Team

By Geri Snyder

The Relay for Life program has been instrumental in raising monies for cancer research for many years. Spring Lake now has its own Team!

More people than ever before are surviving cancer with the help of people who participate in events like the Relay for Life event in Sebring. In 2007 the State of Florida had over 25,000 newly diagnosed cancer patients. Help others to survive by raising money through fun team-oriented fundraisers. Meet your neighbors and become friends by working together for a common cause; it is a lot of fun.

Your Spring Lake Team Captain is Marsha Aud and she could use your help. Marsha can be contacted at her e-mail address, roadgirl60@yahoo.com or contact Geri Snyder at 655-9297 or sebringrelay@ymail.com.

Your help is needed and we would sincerely appreciate it.



## Spring Lake Property Association

By Wayne Roberts, 1st Vice President

**Editors Note:** There are eight associations throughout Spring Lake that residents are part of. The SLPA is the largest, but not all residents were part of this undertaking.

I became a member of the Spring Lake Property Association (SLPM) Board of Directors in November of 2007. At that time we started working toward getting information out to the membership on Deed Restriction changes that some members requested. After many hours of drawing up the many requests and trying to get the right wording, we came up with a questionnaire that was mailed to all SLPA members on September 3, 2008.

We mailed 1,719 letters out to all Spring Lake Property

Association members to see what the general feelings were about proposed changes. Out of all the letters mailed, we only received 511 returned responses; that is only 33.4 percent of members who cared enough to give us their opinions.

The Board of Directors of the SLPA has worked hard on this project and we were disappointed that so few members cared enough to help us. These changes were not something that we were trying to talk you into or out of; but to get them out to you for review and to allow you to decide.

To all of you who took the time to respond to our letter, I thank you. However, with only 33 percent of members responding, the matter is being dropped at this time.

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## Water Department Work Plans Established

We can easily take for granted the wonderful water department that our community is fortunate to have. Water comes out of the faucets; we take showers; some of our refrigerators make ice; and it is hard to remember the last time we ever had a boil order. Water Superintendent Jay Angell and his assistant, J.R. Clarke, do a wonderful job to ensure water quality and availability. There are many projects and activities that are done on a daily, weekly and monthly basis that affect all of us. Here are some of the major components of the FY '09 work plans:

- All dead-end water mains will be flushed on a quarterly basis
- All valves in the system and the water treatment plant will be tested regularly

- All hydrants will be flow tested, cleaned and repaired on a regular basis
- Monthly bacteria samples will be taken according to federal standards
- Water wells will be tested and checked on a regular basis
- Ground water storage tanks will be pressure washed and aerators cleaned
- Chlorine gas system will be converted to liquid chlorine system
- Main breakers will be changed from 350 amps to 600 amps
- New automatic transfer switch will be installed for the generator
- Meters will be read on a monthly basis

- A chlorine analyzer will be installed
- Scheduled maintenance will be performed on all pumps, motors and equipment
- Daily work orders and customer needs will be addressed each day
- All regulatory reports will be completed and available for public access.

The Florida Rural Water Association has been studying our water department policies, procedures, rates, fees and well protection for the past several months. A number of recommendations and observations will be presented to the District Board of Supervisors at their Dec. 10 meeting and it is more than likely a public hearing on these reports will be held in either January or February of '09.

## Landowner Donation Policy Established

The Spring Lake Improvement District Board of Supervisors, at the Sept. 10 Board meeting, approved Resolution 2008-14. This Resolution established the standards and procedures to determine the feasibility of a landowner donating property to the District. A checklist has been developed for any owner to complete and submit to the District, and all information must be compiled and presented to the Board of Supervisors by no later than Feb. 11, 2009. This yearly due date will always coincide with the February Board of Supervisors meeting. The initial checklist of information can be secured at the District Office and items

will include:

- Location map of subject property with name and identification
- Plat of area identifying the property
- Topographical and physical feature survey information of parcel
- Proof of ownership and title to property
- Legal description and sketch of area showing distances and bearings
- Statement by owner/engineer regarding purpose of relief
- Applicable permits or regulatory approvals regarding

past or current uses of land

- Statement by owner regarding history of property and length of time of ownership
- Statement by owner that he will pay all costs associated with review.

All information will be submitted to District Engineer Gene Schriener, President, Craig A. Smith Engineering, for his review and recommendation.

This Resolution became immediately effective on Sept. 10 and all current properties have been grandfathered to Aug. 1, 2009.

## Riverwoods Field Lab

Often times the best-kept secrets are right in your own neighborhood. We wonder how many people are aware of the major Kissimmee River Restoration project that has been going on since 1999 is scheduled for completion in 2013, and the main headquarters for this major project is only 15 minutes from Spring Lake!



Riverwoods Field Lab

### Background:

Located in the center of the state, the Kissimmee River watershed consists of an upper and lower basin. The upper basin is approximately 1,600 square miles in area and is comprised of numerous lakes that historically were connected by river and slough systems. The lower basin consists of approximately 750 square miles and extends south from Lake Kissimmee to Lake Okeechobee. The historic river meandered approximately 103 miles within a

one- to-two miles wide floodplain.

In 1954, Congress authorized the Kissimmee River portion of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project to provide flood protection to the upper basin, drain the river floodplain for agricultural purposes and reduce flooding.

Between 1962 and 1971 the Kissimmee River was converted from a natural system to a channelized system with a series of canals and reservoirs controlled by water control structures. These controls resulted in a significant loss of wetland habitat, vegetation, productive fisheries, damage to ecosystem functions and drastic decline in waterfowl, wading birds and game fish populations. It was time to get back to the way Mother Nature intended the area to be from the beginning.

In 1999 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began working with the South Florida Water Management District on restoring the Kissimmee River to its original flow, restoring 46 miles of the river and 20,000 acres of wetlands. This was to be done by backfilling the middle 22 miles of the C-38 canal that borders Highlands and Okeechobee counties. The Field Lab to oversee this project is just off of

Rt. 98, about 10 miles to the east of Lorida, and just west of the old Pearce Homestead in Bassinger.

This is an extremely interesting project and the Lab is open to the public. They offer eco-tours, classes, workshops, meeting facilities and all kinds of information on the project. Loise Kerwin is the Assistant Director of the facility and she can be contacted at (863) 462-0025 or you can go their Web site at <http://ces.fau.edu>.

## Moratorium On Canal Structures

Effective immediately there is a **moratorium** on any structure that affects District drainage areas, canals, and ponds. The District Board of Supervisors approved a recommendation from its engineering firm, Craig A. Smith & Associates. This action has been taken as a result of the updated water control plan that has been developed for the District and is awaiting approval from the South Florida Water Management District. This moratorium is being supported by both SFWMD and Highlands County and is in effect until the water control plan is completed.

The moratorium affects sea walls, boat docks, and any structure that intrudes on District drainage areas and bodies of water. Residents who currently have structures will be asked to provide copies of the necessary permits they should have secured or the structures may have to be removed at the owner's expense. The Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, by Resolution, has fully outlined all the conditions and regulations regarding such structures, and any permits would have had to be secured from the County Planning and Zoning Departments prior to construction by residents.

If you have a question regarding this moratorium, please contact District Manager Joe DeCervo at the District Office, 655-1715.



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