



Spring Lake BREEZE

Florida . . . the way it should be.

VOL. 1 NO. 7

AUGUST 2007

Fire Department Needs Our Help

The Lorida Volunteer Fire Department continues to work toward improving services to the 256-square-mile District. In order to achieve their goals of protecting all of us, there is a need for basic and advanced personnel training and up-to-date equipment. This costs money!

As the result of growth in our area, the Department has experienced an increase in their responses to brush fires, vehicle accidents, structure fires and medical emergencies. If you never had a personal experience with these problems count yourself very lucky. Just like medical insurance, you are glad it is there when you need it.

Please remember that this is a Volunteer Fire Department. It is through the efforts of all homeowners and businesses that this life and property saving service is possible. In the past, people have been very supportive with their donations and the non ad valorem tax rate has not gone up in several years.

Last month, all homeowners and businesses received an appeal from the Department asking for support. If you have not had a chance to send in your tax-deductible donation,

please do so ... they need your help.

Please make your check payable to the Lorida Volunteer Fire Department Inc. and mail it to P.O. Box 68, Lorida, FL 33857-0068. If you have any questions regarding Department needs, please do not hesitate to call at 655-0122 and leave a message or e-mail them at loridavfd@earthlink.net.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Fire Department on page 4

Station 23, 24, 25 crew

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebrated

A Love For Photography

With Spring Lake Golf Resort and Lake Istokpoga as part of our surroundings, one would expect a large number of golfers and fishing enthusiasts. There are many people, however, who have interests outside of these two sports, and Spring Lake is very fortunate to have a person who has a fondness for nature and photography.



Cal Swisher

The pictures that Cal Swisher Sr. has taken since his arrival to Spring Lake in 1998 have brought much pleasure to those he has shared them with. There are many times Cal has given his pictures away to people he knows appreciates them, and regardless of the event, if Cal is there you can expect to see a lot of pictures! Just recently he presented *The Breeze* with a memory stick that contains 179 of his pictures. Throughout the year we will be using these pictures in future editions.

Cal was born in Greencastle, Pa., on March 13, 1924 as one of 16 children. He is a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army. He married in 1946 and had two children with Shirley Breach, who died of cancer in 1999. Cal has two children and his son, Cal Jr., and his wife Teri, also reside in Spring Lake. His daughter lives in Wisconsin.



A Love For Photography on page 5



Phyllis and Charlie Kenniston



50th wedding anniversary cake

Charlie and Phyllis Kenniston celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 15 at Michaels Restaurant in Spring Lake Resort. The event was attended by many of their friends as well as out-of-state family members.

The Kennistons have been coming to Spring Lake from Maine since the early '90s and originally lived in one of the

first villa phases. They currently reside year-round on Clubhouse Lane, a short walk to the Resort Clubhouse. Both have a fondness for golf and it is a rare day when at least one Kenniston isn't on the links!

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebrated on page 4

Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Approved

According to Florida State Statutes a budget for any Special District must be developed and approved by the Board of Supervisors for that District. The process concludes when required data is sent to the County Tax Collector by no later than Sept. 1 of each year.



A lot has been written about the property tax reductions passed by the Florida Legislature. These reductions are for Ad Valorem taxes; paying a tax based on the value of your property. The Improvement District issues what is known as a **non ad valorem assessment**; everyone pays the same amount regardless of the value of your property. At press

Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Approved on page 3

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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 City 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	655-4981
Village I	Dan Snyder	655-2723
Village II	Don Vandygriff	655-1762
Village III & IV	Joanne McCulley	655-1701
Village V	Lynn 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.

Too Busy For A Friend?

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual. On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. "Really?" she heard whispered. "I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!" and, "I didn't know others liked me so much" were some of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their friends and parents; but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Vietnam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature. The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin. As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. "Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. She nodded and said "yes." Then he said, "Mark talked about you a lot."

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with the teacher. "We want to show

you something," his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it." Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

"Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said. "As you can see, Mark treasured it."

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, "I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home."

Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album."

"I have mine too," Marilyn said. "It's in my diary."

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. "I carry this with me at all times," Vicki said. Without batting an eyelash she continued, "I think we all saved our lists."

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be. So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.

Remember that you reap what you sow; what you put into the lives of others comes back into your own. How many times do you have the opportunity to say or do something nice for a loved one; a co-worker; a friend; a neighbor; and you don't?

Make each day a special day for both yourself and someone else.

Welcome To Spring Lake

By Vohn Steinlage

Once a month the Spring Lake Property Association receives a list from the Improvement District of everyone who has recently moved into Spring Lake and acquired a water connection. Upon receiving the list the Property Association compiles a welcome pack and sends it to the new resident.

The pack contains such pertinent information as: deed restrictions; bylaws; neighborhood watch information; recycling program; beautification; lending closet; restaurants; churches; and other similar items.

If you recently moved into Spring Lake and have not received a welcome packet, please call me at 655-4981 and I

will get it to you.

This is also the time of the year that is our state's rainy season. Your grass will grow much faster and your lawn must be mowed more often to keep the weed seeds from spreading. The best time of day to mow is usually when the morning dew has evaporated and the grass is not wet. Clumps of grass will occur when the grass is too wet and you try to cut it. These clumps will smother any new growth. Now is also the time to fertilize so you will have a healthy lawn. If you should have any gardening questions, please call me at 655-4981. As your Beautification Committee's chairman, I am always available to assist you.

Warning: Do not put debris on empty lots. This is a violation of county law and fines will be enforced.



Spring Lake Residents



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Realtor

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deanfam5@earthlink.net



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karengriffin@earthlink.net

*Free beverage w/purchase of a meal at the Spring Lake Restaurant when showing this ad.

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Come and experience new dimensions in spiritual living in a positive and casual atmosphere.

Current Location: 204 S. Orange Street Downtown Sebring

Soon to be located off US 66 on Orange Blossom Blvd. South, just West of Spring Lake

Golf attire welcome / no spikes please

For information call 863-471-1122

The Breeze Is On The Net!

Starting with the June issue, all monthly editions of *The Breeze* are available on our Web site. Simply go to www.springlakeimprovement.com and click on the appropriate title in the navigation area. Please note that this is a very large file and cannot be properly downloaded. View any past issues by going to the specific month.



Also available on our Web site is a **Message Board** for any postings that you may want to make. Go to our site, click on message board and follow the registration

guidelines. You will be asked to supply a username and password and that is all there is to it. Browse through the topics, read the comments and messages posted and write your own as well.

To post a message, first go in to the board you want ... for instance, click General Discussion. You can reply to a message someone else has posted by looking at the bottom right of the message and note the "reply" option. To post a new topic, click in the board you want and then look at the bottom right and go to the link that says "new topic."

Please register and start posting messages, comments or opinions.

Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Approved on page 2

time, the final budget had not been approved by the Board, but it is anticipated that there will be up to a 6 percent **reduction** in District General Revenue taxes. The Board is to be complimented for their fiscal controls, while at the same time ensuring that needed capital improvements continue to move forward.

This year's budget process was unlike any previous year in the District. A system was created that ensured a proactive, involved group of people would produce a budget that was clearly representative of District General Fund needs. Here is the process that the Board used in determining the FY '08 budget:

Jan. 10: At the District Board meeting, Commissioner Brian Acker was selected to be the Finance Chairman and work with District manager Joe DeCerbo to develop a budget process.

Jan. 24: Personnel Chairperson Marsi Benson, Committee member John Danko, Joe DeCerbo and Water Superintendent Greg Gretz met to begin the personnel segment of the budget process.

Feb. 14: Personnel Committee adopted preliminary costs for FY '08.

March-April: Various meetings were conducted with management staff and the District Auditor to develop operational costs, equipment purchases and capital outlay needs. A budget process to determine exactly what functions staff are performing, and how many days, was initiated. This enabled us to determine exact personnel costs within each area. Additionally, Chairman Acker met on numerous occasions with management staff to seek further details and clarity on line items.

May 14: A four-hour budget meeting was held with Chairman Acker, Auditor Bruce Stratton, and our management staff. A line-by-line analysis was done for all budget categories.

June 6: All Commissioners received a copy of the preliminary budget and Chairman Acker described the process that was used and the date for the public hearing.

July 11: Public hearing on FY '08 budget followed by the regularly scheduled monthly Board of Commissioners meeting. The final budget was not available at press time, but will be part of the September newspaper.

Following the July meeting, staff began to prepare the necessary documents for the County Tax Collectors Office. Confirmation will be received in September.

District E-Mail Address Changes

As many of you probably know, **Embarq** has been notifying their customers that all EarthLink® accounts will be moving to **Embarq**. Current EarthLink e-mails will still be forwarded until Oct. 31, but after that date they will not.

Effective immediately, Spring Lake Improvement District has a new e-mail address: slid115@embarqmail.com.

Thank you in advance for making the necessary changes in your address books.

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

District Staff:

Brian Acker	
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	Brian Murray	Brian Patrick
JR Clarke	Neil Wilkinson	
Bill Maine	Corey Jones	

District Advisors:

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



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 **888-223-7557** or **863-655-0137**.

www.crossingsofspringlake.com



50th Wedding Anniversary Celebrated from page 1



Friends Muriel Lamoureux, Betty McClure and Marsenna Rentel

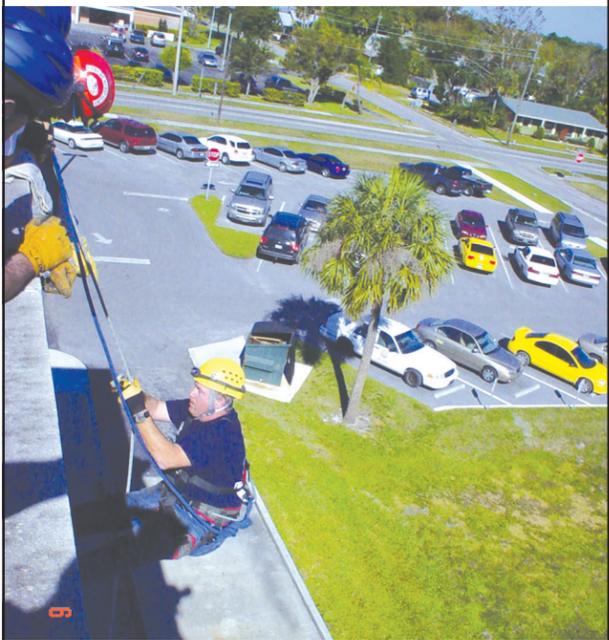


A life story in pictures



Charlie and Phyllis thanked those who attended.

Fire Department from page 1



Assistant Chief Swenson repelling



Friends are a large part of their life.



Family members came to celebrate.



Lorida Volunteer Fire Department firefighter, A. Swenson, during Spring Lake picnic



Automatic Water Bill Payments

Many people have taken advantage of the new automatic billing program now offered by the District. If you are interested in having your checking account automatically pay your bill through your bank, call the office at 655-1715 to receive your form. Known as ACH, the forms are available at the District Office.



Have you ever wondered how our water charges compare with surrounding communities? Here are the latest rates:

	Minimum Charge	Cost Per 1,000 Gallons
Spring Lake	\$10.00	\$1.43
Lake Placid	13.00	1.45
Sun 'n Lake	10.00	1.50
Avon Park	11.30	2.70
Sebring	11.80	3.30

Where The Water Goes And How You Can Help Conserve

- The typical lawn sprinkling system will pump out 10 to 20 gallons a minute.
- Hand-washing dishes can use 2.5 to 4 gallons a minute.
- Dishwashers will use 7 to 12 gallons per load.
- Washing machines use 27 to 47 gallons per load.
- Toilet flushing uses up to 5 gallons, depending on the flow model.
- A family of four averages 20 flushes per day.
- Showers use 2 to 4 gallons per minute.
- It takes 36 gallons to fill a bath tub.
- Washing hands or brushing teeth, 1.5 to 4 gallons per minute.



Office Hours
Mon - Thurs : 8am - 5pm
Friday : 8am - 2pm
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A Love For Photography from page 1

Cal moved from Pennsylvania to Milwaukee in 1956 and went to work for Allis Chalmers Company. In 1958 he and his family moved to Mukwonago, Wis., where he worked as a welder, fitter and instructor for Wisconsin Centrifugal, where he retired in 1986.

Cal and his wife moved to Bonita Springs in 1996 and moved to Spring Lake in 1998 to be closer to his son while Shirley was battling cancer. She died the next year. In 1999 Cal went to work for Spring Lake Golf Resort where his gardening skills were put to great use. His nurturing of the plants, shrubs, trees and flowers around the clubhouse turned a dull area into some of the most beautiful landscaping in the area. Cal had his own nursery at the Resort and could often be seen tending his plants and trees. To this day he still works 25 to 30 hours per week.

Cal always said it was terrible to be alone, and in 2001 he came across a longtime family friend from Wisconsin who came to visit his son. Florence Lambert didn't know it at the time, but thanks to her, Cal is no longer lonely. Cal has seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

There are many human-interest stories about our Spring Lake residents ... this has been one of them. If you know a person we should highlight, please let us know.



A Love For Photography on page 7



ICE Campaign Outlined

We all carry our mobile phones with names and numbers stored in its memory, but no one other than ourselves knows which numbers belong to our closest family or friends. If we were involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call.



There may be hundreds of numbers stored, but which one is the contact person to call in case of an emergency?

Hence, the "ICE" (in case of emergency) Campaign.

ICE is a method of contact during emergency situations, and it is catching on quickly; many of you may have already taken advantage of the idea.

As cell phones are carried by the majority of the

population, all you need to do is add the word ICE next to the names that can be contacted during an emergency.

For example: Bill ICE, Mary ICE, etc. It doesn't matter if you have just the first name or the last, simply skip a space and put ICE.

This idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients but he could not determine who to call. He thought it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, EMS or hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the name of the person that has ICE following their name.

This is a great idea that will make a difference ... spread the concept of ICE by storing it in your mobile phone today and let others know as well.





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MLS # 195643

Large pool home, 3 Bed, 3 Bath, 2+ cg, large lot, over \$60k worth of recent upgrades. Hot tub/spa stays! Lawn Mower Stays!!!
Recently Reduced \$229,000.



MLS # 192889

Sellers relocating. MUST SELL!!!! 3 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 cg, large screened breezeway, all on a cul-de-sac. Come take a look and make an offer! **\$174,500.**

View all of these at www.dellrealtyofsebring.com
Spring Lake Golf Villas Available

MLS #	ADDRESS	PRICE
195931	1105 Villaway	\$139,900
192670	207 Villaway East	\$142,000
192544	2208 Villaway East	\$179,000
194561	303 Villaway East	\$148,500
191566	707 Villaway North	\$132,000
188797	1010 Villaway West	\$109,900
193389	1103 Villaway West	\$139,900
194557	1202 Villaway West	\$124,900
194287	1302 Villaway West	\$98,900

MLS # 196236

Commercially zoned property in Lorida, prime opportunity for development of a professional plaza in this rapidly growing area. 4 lots in this package - 1731 US 98, 1716 Grey Oak Ln., 1708 Grey Oak Ln. - totaling 1.22 acres.
\$149,900.



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Golfers Help Great Ape Escape

For years, humans have enjoyed the entertainment provided by primates in movies, television and advertisements. While this offers a tidy profit for the owners of such animals, there is a lifetime of misery for the animal.

Orangutans and chimpanzees have wormed their way into our hearts in movies. What is not commonly known is that once these animals have reached an age where they are hard to handle, or reach sexual maturity and become belligerent or dangerous, they are often abandoned to roadside zoos or sold to other attractions where their happiness and well-being are not a top priority.

Recent improvements in entertainment technology and animation have provided humans an opportunity to "virtually" experience the beauty of these animals without interfering with the lives of actual animals who, once trained to work in the entertainment industry have no hope of ever returning to a normal life.

Patty Reagan, founder of The Center for Great Apes in Wauchula, has made it her life's work to offer an escape for these animals and educate the public regarding their needs.

The Center for Great Apes houses more than 40 apes ranging in age from 18 months to 47 years. It is open to the public only by special appointment for individuals who are interested in helping these animals either by volunteering supplies, services or donations. For more information, visit www.primeapes.org or contact Patty at (863) 767-8903.

One group that wanted to support Patty's efforts were the 72 golfers who took to the links at Spring Lake Golf Course on Saturday, July 7 and raised \$2,400. The organizers of the outing were: Crystal McKee, John and Debbie Delaney, Leon and Gail Van, Rob and Carole Frederick and their granddaughters, Lauren and Katie.

Winners in the four-person scramble event held on the Panther course were:

A Flight

First: Kenny and Laura Poe, Ken Poe, Larry Bush
Second: Bill and Kathie Lawens, Ron and Louise VonColln

B Flight

First: Wiley and Pam Ferguson, Pat and Rita Jaskowski
Second: John Danko, Tim McKenna, Tony Plyley, Tim Murray

C Flight

First: Keith and Judy Yoder, Phil McMullin, Teresa Hyre
Second: Jim and Margaret Mazzola, Don and Bernie Ray



August Calendar

If you or your group has events that you would like listed, please let us know by calling 655-1715 or send an e-mail to slid115@earthlink.net.

- 1 Ladies' Golf League
Women's Social Club, 9:30 a.m., Community Center
- 2 Bridge Club, 6 p.m., Community Center
- 5 **Happy Friendship Day**
- 7 Men's Golf League
County Commission Meeting, 9 a.m.
- 8 Yard Waste Pickup
Ladies' Golf League
Women's Social Club, 9:30 a.m., Community Center
- 14 Men's Golf League
County Commission Workshop, 9 a.m.
- 15 Ladies' Golf League
Bunco, 9:30 a.m., Community Center
SLID Board Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- 16 Bridge Club, 6 p.m., Community Center
- 18 Harvest Grape Festival, Henscratch Farms
- 20 First Day of School
- 21 County Commission meeting, 9 a.m.
Men's Golf League
- 22 Yard Waste Pickup
Women's Social Club, 9:30 a.m., Community Center
- 24-26 Caladium Festival in Lake Placid
- 25-26 Sertoma Golf Tournament, Sun 'n Lake Golf Course
- 28 Men's Golf League
County Commission Public Meetings, 9 a.m.
- 29 Women's Social Club, 9:30 a.m., Community Center
- 30 Bridge Club, 6 p.m., Community Center

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100 Clubhouse Ln, Sebring, FL 33876 Phone: 655-5555

Tennis Courts



The Board of Commissioners has voted to completely repair and refurbish the two tennis courts. The work will be done by ACRO Maintenance and Restoration located in Sebring. The work will include:

- scrape the entire court surface to remove all coverings and meshing
- clean court surface and cracks to remove dirt and mold
- apply acrylic court patch to larger cracks
- check for low spots and fill accordingly
- apply five coats of various colored acrylic resurfaces
- apply white textured playing lines to USTA specifications
- sand and paint existing net posts
- scrape and paint existing tennis backboard
- install existing nets

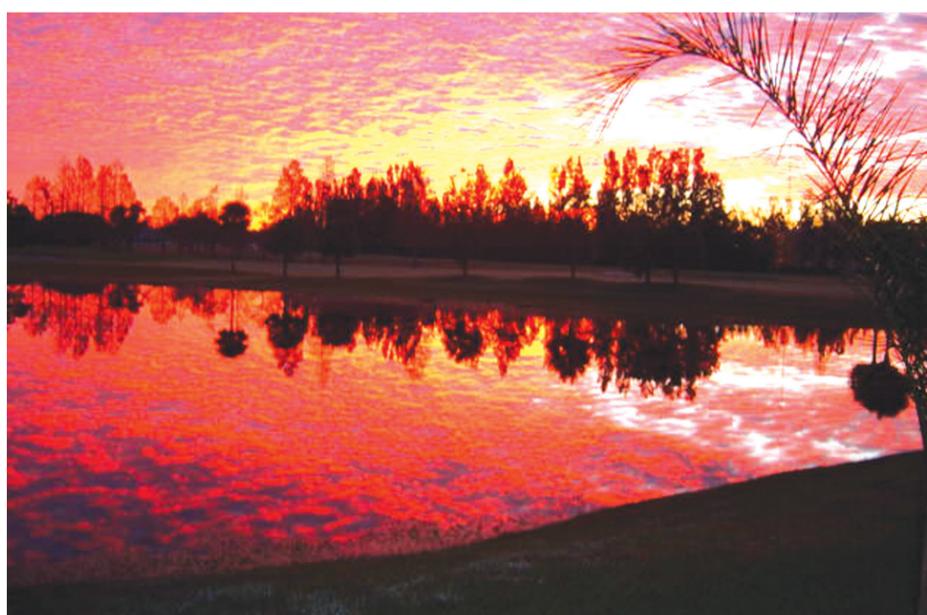
• additionally, District staff will be sanding and repainting the existing fence.

Total cost of the project will be approximately \$15,000 and work is expected to begin sometime in July. During renovation the courts will be closed.

When completed, several residents have agreed to coordinate various teaching and tournament programs. The current tennis pro at the Country Club of Sebring, Horace Watkins, has been in communication with the District to provide a full lesson program for interested residents and their families.



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In Memoriam

Just prior to press time for this edition of *The Breeze*, we were notified that former District Superintendent Robert Aquilina died at his home on June 30 at the age of 67.

Bob had been with the District for almost 30 years and retired in October of '06. During his time in Spring Lake he performed numerous functions within Field Maintenance, Drainage, Mosquito and Weed Control, Parks and the Water Department. His years of service were invaluable to the District.

Bob was born in Wildwood, N.J., and moved to this area in 1973 from Harrisburg, Pa. He is survived by a son, Robert, of Sebring; sister Joanie Ekstrom of Goshin, N.J.; step-sister Cynthia Storm of Harrisburg.

Services will be held in New Jersey. Anyone wishing to send a card or note to the family may bring it to the SLID office or mail it to us. Once we find out where to send them, we will mail all of them together.



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