

SpringLake BREEZE

Florida... the way it should be!



Airport Runway Extension Approved

Sebring Regional Airport has received the green light from the Florida Legislature and Governor Scott to proceed with the 1,476-foot extension to a runway with the approval of a 90-acre land acquisition. The Governor signed a legislative appropriation in the amount of \$1.5 million and the project phase is expected to start in September.

Phase I of the project is a full reconstruction of the existing 5,524 primary runway and is currently in progress under a Federal Aviation Agency grant. Phase II entails the extension of a second runway and taxiway and design and permitting begins this fall. For more information about this and other airport projects, visit www.sebring-airport.com



Levee Certification Update

The District continues to work towards the February 12, 2012 deadline set by FEMA to certify our existing levee and protect Spring Lake residents from being placed in a flood zone by the new mapping process. District Engineer Gene Schriener, President, Craig A. Smith & Associates, has met with the District and outlined a construction plan that could begin as early as September 1st. Two feet of soil has to be added to the top of the levee to raise it above the flood elevation level currently approved by FEMA, 48 ft. The west bank of the levee will be contoured with additional fill.

The District will be leasing the necessary equipment to do the work with current personnel, and any additional materials will come from the recently purchased land to the north; another major cost savings. Highlands County Road and Bridge have also agreed to assist us if we run into any problems that require additional equipment.

Previous issues of The Breeze, in particular March 2011, have addressed the new flood maps, the levee certification program, and securing flood insurance before the maps change. Residents are urged to review those articles or you can also access them on the District website at www.springlakefl.com The Highlands County Board of County Commissioners will

be conducting a series of public hearings in the Fall to review the proposed flood maps and prepare a County Ordinance approving them. Spring Lake is the only part of the County that has a levee and both the Ordinance and Certification has to be secured to affect positive results for Spring Lake residents and their flood insurance rates.

Emergency Operations Center

During a time of emergency, when power and communications are not available, it is important to have a facility in the community that can disseminate information and have a central control area for District personnel. In close cooperation with the Highlands County Emergency Management staff, our District Office made several improvements to handle emergencies. A large in-ground generator, able to keep the office fully operational was installed several years ago. A satellite system has been installed to acquire updated weather and emergency information from County, State and Federal agencies. A two-way radio system with our own communications tower has been in operation for a number of years. Hurricane shutters are installed in all windows during the storm season and easily removed for the other months.

The Center WILL NOT be used for housing or medical assistance due to existing laws and insurance constraints. By working with Highlands County we will have access to a restricted dispatch that will notify us of available shelters, pet facilities, medical support, and other services. **If land or cell phones are still operating you can call the Center or you can come to the drive up window to secure information.**

In spite of our preparations we would welcome not having to use any emergency services. However, we must be prepared for the worst. For those of us who live here during the summer and fall months, being prepared for a storm is the most important part of getting thru an emergency. Don't wait until the last minute to store up on needed supplies, checking your generator, making your house secure, and following all the suggestions from the various agencies offering advice.

Highlands County Emergency Numbers

Emergency Management	385-1112
Emergency Medical	402-6630
Sheriff	402-7200
Animal Control	655-6475
Public Information	402-6833

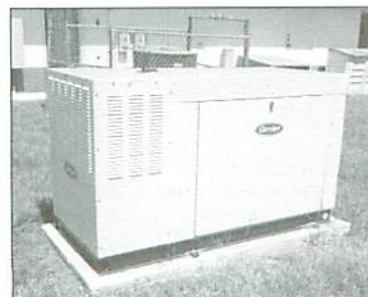
Highlands County local disaster web site

www.hceoc.org

National Hurricane Center Checklist

(Source: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>)

- Water: at least one gallon daily per person for 3-7 days
- Food: enough for 3-7 days of non-perishable packaged or canned food/juices; items for infants or the elderly; snacks; non-electric can opener; cooking tools; fuel; paper plates; plastic utensils and cups.
- Blankets and pillows
- Clothing: seasonal; rain gear; sturdy shoes
- First aid kit, medicines, prescription drugs
- Toiletries, hygiene items, moisture wipes
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery operated radio and tools
- Fully charged cell phone with extra battery
- Cash and credit cards
- Keys, toys, books, and games
- Put important documents in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag such as insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, and social security cards
- Fill all tanks with fuel
- Pet care items: proper identification; immunization records; medications; ample supply of food and water; a carrier or cage; muzzle or leash.



2011 Named Hurricanes

Arlene	Katia
Brett	Lee
Cindy	Maria
Don	Nate
Emily	Ophelia
Franklin	Phillippe
Gert	Rina
Harvey	Sean
Irene	Tammy
Jose	Vince

Water Restrictions

Highlands County Code Enforcement is charged with overseeing the water restrictions that are currently in place for the County, including Spring Lake. If you are concerned about people who are violating the restrictions you can contact code enforcement anonymously and they will investigate (402-6915). County personnel also drive thru Spring Lake to look for any water that was sprayed on the road or driveway on a day that was not scheduled for watering.

According to the guidelines issued by the County, watering should be before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m. and limited to twice a week. Even addresses may water on Thursday and/or Sunday, and odd addresses may water on Wednesday and/or Saturday. Hand watering and micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day and at any time.



District Charter Revision Survey July, 2011

In November 2010 Spring Lake residents defeated a referendum to revise the existing District Charter. Mosquito control was one part of that revision and the District had to suspend service. The Board requested an opinion from State Attorney General Pam Biondi asking if the District could spray in spite of the referendum being defeated. She stated that the District was not authorized to spray for mosquitoes unless the authority was specifically set forth in the Charter.

As a result of public comments from both residents and property associations at District meetings, the Board of Supervisors is looking into another charter revision process. The Board is only interested in securing the right to spray for mosquitoes and to update the language of our charter. There are no plans to revive the issues that were defeated in the referendum and to grant the Board any additional powers.

The Board requested that all landowners and residents in each Village be sent a direct mail copy of this letter and survey; publish the information in The Breeze newsletter; contact residents by using our Phone Tree program; place the information on our website; and ask the Spring Lake Property Association to publish it in their newsletter. Additionally, the Board will be scheduling several public information meetings to ensure that all residents understand the intention of the charter revision.

Please respond whether you would support the Board's effort to revive mosquito control services and to update some of the language in the current charter. Again, there are no plans to include powers that were voted down by residents last November.

_____ I am in favor of reviving Mosquito Control _____ Not in favor

_____ I am in favor of updating the charter language _____ Not in favor

As the Board continues to look at the future of our community there are a number of areas that residents have voiced their opinions on. What areas would you like to see the Board address in the years ahead:

Optional: Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Fire Hydrant Protection

There are 221 fully operational fire hydrants throughout Spring Lake that offer protection to the community. It is imperative that maintenance and flow testing is conducted in a timely manner. Mueller Services has completed our fire hydrant maintenance program that began in early June. The work involved the following segments:

- Locate and GPS each hydrant
- Locate and test the hydrant isolation valve
- Check hydrant nozzle height for proper clearance
- Identify make, model, and year of each hydrant
- Identify hydrant main valve, hose, and pumper size
- Lubricate all nozzle outlets with F.D.A. approved lubricant
- Open hydrant with nozzle caps in place to check for seal leakage
- Verify that hydrant main valve completely closes
- Open hydrant, record working pressure and calculate hydrant flow
- Record static pressure
- Note any operational deficiencies

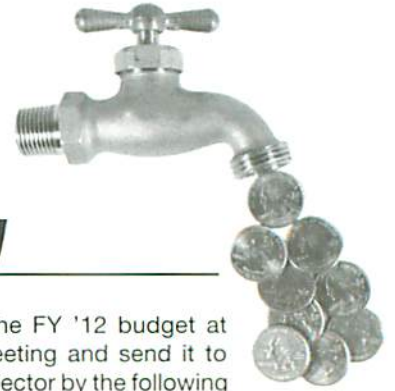


All this information has been forwarded to the Highlands County Emergency Operations Center. The County will now put the GPS information on their system for location and flow data to assist the fire departments when water for fire protection is needed in our community.

SPRING LAKE

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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



FY '12 Budget and Water Public Hearing

The District Board of Supervisors has scheduled a Public Hearing on the FY '12 District Budget and Water Rates and Fees. The Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2011, 10:00 a.m. at the District Office. The regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place following both Public Hearings. Major items for discussion are: repairs and maintenance costs for the community center; land acquisition options for the levee certification process; equipment needs for the water control plan projects; District Charter revision; renewal and replacement; reserve funds; and capital projects.

The Water Public Hearing will address current rates and fees; the updated study by the Florida Rural Water Association; capital projects and needs; and a review of FY '12 projected income and expenses.

The Management staff and Board have been working on the budget since April, and a draft was presented to the Board at the June meeting. Discussion will continue at the July 13 Board meeting and a final draft available for the Public Hearing. The Board of

Supervisors must approve the FY '12 budget at the September 14 Board meeting and send it to the Highlands County Tax Collector by the following week.

District Assessment History:

2007	\$284.80
2008	\$266.45
2009	\$272.84
2010	\$293.21
2011	\$303.91

In spite of the fiscal challenges with the Water Control Plan and the Levee Certification Process assessments have only risen 6.7% in the last five years. The Board will continue to monitor all line items to ensure that our budget reflects Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Economy.



Certified District Manager

Assistant District Manager Clay Shrum is shown receiving his Certified District Manager Certificate at the recently held Conference of the Florida Association of Special Districts. The two-year program is coordinated by Florida State University. He joins current District Manager Joe DeCerro, who received his Certificate in 2008.

Security Fencing Installed



Security fencing has been installed at the water plant and maintenance facility. This project provides additional protection for our wells, storage tanks, equipment, vehicles, and property. Local provider Brooker Fencing, Rt. 98, performed the work as a result of a competitive bid process. The total project was less than \$30,000