

SpringLake BREEZE

Florida... the way it should be!



Board Update

As a result of the COVID-19 guidelines, the April 8th meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held with several people phoning into the meeting and being on speaker phone. A relaxation of the Sunshine Laws allowed this process to be used, and several important items that needed immediate attention were approved.

The budget process for Fiscal Year 2021 has begun and Supervisors were presented with their initial packet of information. Over the course of the next several months areas of the budget will be discussed at our regular meetings, and a Public Hearing will be held on August 12th.

In anticipation of future expansion for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Board approved the purchase of 7 acres of land directly west, and next to, our current site. When expansion is needed due to the amount of development coming into Spring Lake, this land will become an additional spray field and allow for maximum usage of the plant.

The Board accepted the Audit Report for FY '19. There were no deficiencies noted by the Auditors, and a copy is available on the web site or at the office.

While our Field and Utility personnel are still on the job, the office is closed to the public until further notice. Administrative staff are still on-site, but all business must be conducted via phone, e-mail, or fax. Parks remain open, but the community center is closed indefinitely. All residents are asked to observe the social distance regulations and be respectful of others concerns

District



Picnic

District Staff and their families had a picnic at Pine Breeze Park. Our staff represents over 100 years of service to the District and have numerous licenses, certifications, and training to provide consistent services to our residents.



ECO Resort Being Built



Richard and Colleen Paul-Hus and their family live in South Florida where Richard manages his various businesses. Their love of the outdoors, and a 6-year-old dream Colleen had for an ECO Resort, led them to Spring Lake several years ago.

They purchased property off Rt. 98, across from Thunder Road and west of the levee. Little by little they have cleared land, brought in electricity, and started to construct cabins. They will be connecting to District water and sewer starting this summer.

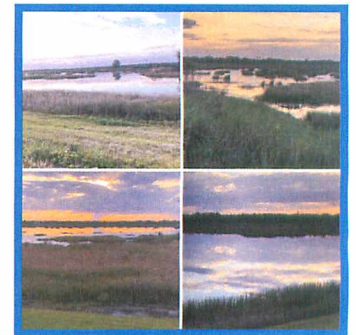
The plan is to have upwards of 30 cabins of various sizes and provide ECO opportunities that reflect Old Florida. This is a very unique concept and is a one of its kind development in the State. Additional updates and pictures will be provided in **The Breeze** as the Resort continues to be built.

District Facts & Figures

- Spring Lake was created in 1971, Chapter 71-699, Laws of the State of Florida
- Westinghouse Corp. was the original developer
- Governed by 5 elected Board of Supervisors (30 different ones since 1971)
- Legislative District 55, Senate District 26, Congressional District 17
- Voting precinct 20, except for Village One.
- The District interacts with over 50 local, state, and federal agencies
- Approximately 3,750 residents and landowners
- 3,333 acres; 2,493 north of Rt. 98 and 840 south of Rt. 98
- 36 miles of roadway, 16 miles of canals, 3 miles of levees
- 5 miles in length, east to west
- Land elevations vary from 65' on the west to 38' mean sea level to the east
- 10,000 + autos and trucks travel Rt. 98 thru Spring Lake daily
- 5 public parks include an ECO Park and Bark Park, community center, tennis courts, 5 pavilions, and a boat ramp/dock at Arbuckle Creek Park
- Golf Resort, restaurant, pub, villa rentals. First built in 1978
- Pump station has four 65,000 gallons per minute pumps (2 electrics; 2 diesel)
- 2,305 acres served by the pump station in discharging storm water
- 1,380 acres of off-site land served by the pump station
- Over 1 Billion gallons of storm water was discharged during hurricane Irma
- Average rainfall over the past 45 years, 50" per year (60% from June – Sept.)
- Close to 1,600 water meters and 320 sewer connections
- Over 1,000 ACH customers
- 400K gallon water storage tank, 250K gallon tank, 3 wells
- The Florida Aquifer underlies the entire District



Sunset at ECO Park



County Administrator Randy Vosburg and Family @ Eco Park

Eagle on Golf Course



Fisherman Bob
11.2 Oz Bass @
ECO Park



Status of Funded Projects

Just over **\$13 million** of State funding has been secured in the last 7 years, saving our taxpayers thousands of dollars in additional assessments. These funds have come from Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grants, Legislative Appropriations, State Revolving Fund 0% loans, and the County. Here is a summary of those projects:

- **Stormwater Treatment Area:** Also known as the ECO Park, just under **\$4 million** was used to construct this water retention, storage, and quality project. Additionally, the County provided **\$75,000** thru the Recreation Committee to pay for the restroom, shelters, and other amenities.
 - **Pump Station:** A **\$500,000** Legislative Appropriation was fully expended toward the upgrading and rehabilitation of this 40-year-old facility. A newly installed generator ensures power to operate the pumps in times of power outages.
 - **Wastewater Treatment Plant:** This newly completed facility will not only support current users but can provide treatment for the new developments planned along Rt. 98 and within the golf resort property. The State Revolving Fund provided the necessary finances in the amount of **\$3,361,000**.
 - **Rt. 98 Sewer Lines:** A Legislative appropriation in the amount of **\$1.1 million** will extend infrastructure west to Village X, and east towards Madrid. Bids were recently secured, and the contract went to Excavation Point, who also built the sewer plant. Installation is expected to begin in a few months and completed by the Fall.
 - **Water System Projects:** The largest water project undertaken by the District is being financed by the State Revolving Fund. A **\$432,000** Engineering study will outline the scope of work for the project, and a cost of just under **\$4 million** is being projected. The funds will be used to extend water to Pinedale Estates and Village X; rehabilitate the recently acquired water plant near the Airport; upgrade and renovate the main water plant; and rehabilitate selected water lines located throughout the District.
 - **Parks:** Thru the Highlands County Parks and Recreation Committee, excluding the ECO Park structures, we received additional grants of **\$40,000** for a restroom in Pine Breeze Park, and **\$37,500** for a restroom at the Bark Park.
- The initiatives the District has taken to secure grants, appropriations, and 0% loans has benefited us tremendously. Not only were we able to fast track our projects, but we did them without raising assessments. In 2013 taxpayers paid an annual assessment of \$312.27 per unit. Despite all the projects listed above, the 2020 assessment is \$293.76!!! Government can indeed work for the benefit of its residents by being Efficient, Effective, and Economical.

Bits and Pieces

- A HUGE THANK YOU to our Spring Lake businesses keeping their doors open and providing service to our residents. The Golf Resort, Victoria's, Roserio's, Subway, Dollar General, Spring Lake Market and others deserve our support and gratitude.
 - There has never been a better time to be a Water Angel. Contribute to this fund and help our financially challenged residents keep up on their utility payments. It is a great way to help our neighbors. Simply write a check and put Water Angel in the memo section. Call the office for more details at 655-1715.
 - Several streets are being paved by the County. There is a formal process the County uses to evaluate each street and determine if it is eligible for resurfacing. We have been fortunate to be included in the resurfacing program for the last 8 years. A list of all County resurfacing appears on the County Road and Bridge site.
 - Blue Birds seem to be flourishing at the ECO Park. Bird houses specifically designed for these birds were installed by George Coulter last year and are visible as you walk the area.
 - The Sebring Citrus Golf Trail, coordinated by Visit Sebring, has announced its 2020 partners. The Sebring International Golf Resort, formerly the Spring Lake Golf Resort, and now participating in the program. If you are a golfer, this is a good opportunity to play quality courses in and around our area. Go to www.CitrusGolfTrail.com for information, or call 800-545-6021.
 - The **Pawsitively Spring Lake Dog Club** is a good way to involve you and your pet in a fun organization. Call or text 863-381-8052 for details.
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SPRING LAKE

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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

Removing Alligators

Alligators are a fundamental part of Florida, and that includes Spring Lake. Gators can be seen in all our canals, lakes and ponds, and can often be seen sunning themselves on the shore. Although most people understand that we have gators living amongst us, the potential for conflict exists. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission oversees any removal of gators thru its Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program (SNAP)



The District must complete a formal extraction application to establish lines of communication between FFWC and the District. The only way that a gator can be extracted is with approval from the District Manager. Gators are not removed simply because they are swimming in a water body or sunning on the shore. They must display aggressiveness or, in some cases, always stay on the same property. For example, if there is playground equipment behind a house and a gator is always coming out of the canal to lay on the land, they will be removed for the safety of the children. The same is true for pets leashed in a yard.

Residents normally call the District Office to report a potential gator problem. Staff are sent out to the property several times to ensure the gator is indeed aggressive and bothersome. If the decision is made to extract the gator a written notice is sent to SNAP for removal, and a designated professional assigned to the District comes to remove the gator. Nuisance gators are KILLED, not removed. That is why the District will ensure that the gator is truly aggressive before the process of extraction is started. In 2008 alone, 28 gators were removed from Spring Lake and the decision was made that we needed to be more diligent and vigilant before extractions occurred. From 2009 thru 2018, 37 gators have been extracted.

Appreciate alligators from a distance and be smart. Never feed gators, its both dangerous and illegal. Observe and photograph gators from a distance as well. Remember, gators are an important part of Florida's natural history as well as an integral component of aquatic ecosystems.

You can visit www.MyFWC.com/Gators for more information about alligators.

Birthday Party @ the Community Center



New Home Construction

Family Gathering at Pine Breeze Park



FDEP Director Jon Iglehart & Terry Cerullo visit the new sewer plant





SEBRING INTERNATIONAL
GOLF RESORT

Hi Spring Lake,

I hope you and yours are safe and healthy. We all look forward to getting back to "normal life" soon enough.

In the meantime, I want to say thank you to everyone who has supported our restaurant with take out and delivery orders. We're grateful to be able to serve you.

On that same note, we made 3 new changes to hopefully better support the community during this time.

One, we added "Family-Style" dinner specials, which feeds 4-6 (ex: fried chicken, meatloaf, pizza). We keep them affordable, and they can be picked up curbside or delivered to your door. See below for details.

Two, we now offer basic grocery delivery. By using our food supplier, you can order bread, dairy, meats, and produce for pickup or delivery to your home. Visit sebringgrocery.com to order.

Three, we now offer Touchless Golf, which is a "no contact" way to get outside on the course. Simply pay by phone, arrive to a pre-assigned cart, and head to the first tee.

We hope these programs bring some comfort and convenience to the community. For questions or to purchase, you can call us at 863-655-5555.

Be safe. Be well.

Sincerely,
H3
Owner, S.I.G.R.





✓ SAFE DISTANCE

✓ CLEAN CARTS

✓ STAY ACTIVE



We're in
Spring Lake!



SEBRING INTERNATIONAL
GOLF RESORT

RESIDENT SPECIAL*

*OFFER EXCLUSIVELY FOR
SPRING LAKE RESIDENTS

ALL MORNING: \$20

AFTER 12PM: \$16

EVERY ROUND INCLUDES:

- 18 HOLES + INDV. CART
- RANGE BALLS
- FIRST BEER FOR \$1
- \$9 REPLAYS (SAME DAY)
- 20% OFF ANY TO-GO MEAL
- FREE YARDAGE BOOK

PAY BY PHONE FOR OUR "TOUCHLESS" GOLF OPTION

ALL PRICES PLUS TAX. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. EXPIRES MAY 14, 2020

100 CLUBHOUSE LN., SEBRING, FL 33876

863-655-5555