

SpringLake BREEZE

Florida... the way it should be!



Festival Planning Moves Forward

Mark your calendar now for the most exciting event of our community's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Phil Gentry and the Spring Lake Property Association have taken the lead in putting together a fun filled day with vendors, food trucks, raffles, music, games, kid's activities, and more.

The Festival will take place on Saturday, October 23rd, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Pine Breeze Park and the Community Center area. Additional parking areas will be available; residents are encouraged to drive their golf cart if they have one.

If you or someone you know, wants to be a vendor, or volunteer to help with the event, please contact the SLPA office at 655-2230 and ask for Lark.



Basketball Court a Valuable Asset

It is not often that you will drive by the basketball court and not see anyone playing. It has become a great gathering place for our young people, and the recent repaving and striping have delighted this group of players. They dispose of their drinks and snacks in the trash cans provided, and we have not had any kind of vandalism or graffiti. These are good kids who just want a place to play.



Fire Hydrant Protection

There are 226 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. The District recently completed a full inspection program that included 12 key procedures. All the information is very important and is shared with the Highlands County Emergency Operations. The County uses the GPS information for location and flow data to assist the fire departments when water for fire protection is needed in our community.

Drinking Water to Pinedale Estates



After more than five years of planning, marketing, and securing finances, many residents of Pinedale Estates will soon be receiving their drinking water from Spring Lake. The project is being funded, along with several other water projects, thru the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The actual construction will begin this summer and GO UNDERGROUND has the contract for the project. The company is operated by Crayton and Racheal Tillman.

Cesar Martinez, pictured with District Administrative Assistant Cindy Bacon, was the first resident to reserve a water meter and pay the connection fee.



Whether it is a water break or installation of a new water connection, the work is often demanding, dirty, and time consuming. The District is fortunate to have qualified, certified, and licensed staff to handle all problems.

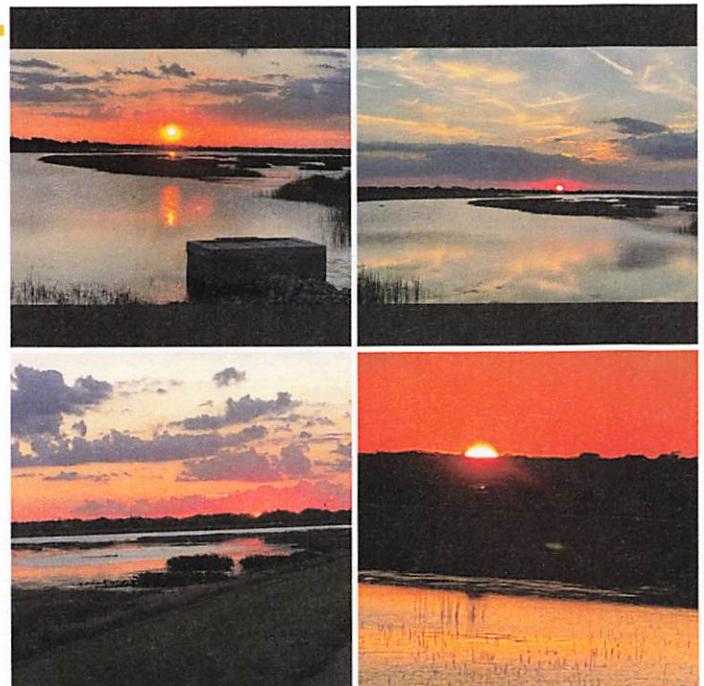
What is Cross Connection?

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.

Priceless Sunsets

If you have not been to the ECO Park as the sun sets, you are missing some of the best views you will ever see. These photos were taken and sent to us by residents who enjoy their nightly ride to the far east side of the multi-use path and take some of the best pictures you would ever want.



L-R: Doris, Jazmine, and Blanca Labiosa spend Mother's Day at the ECO Park. These ladies represent three generations of love and family, and Great Grandma was unable to attend, which makes it four generations!



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2020 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, 2020. Also included are test results in earlier years for contaminants sampled less often than annually. For contaminants not required to be tested for in 2020, 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 2020 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://fldep.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>.

2020 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)	1/20 - 12/20	NO	1.22	1.1 to 1.5	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Stage 2 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products (D/DBP)							
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	08/20	NO	20.4	13.8 to 20.4	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	08/20	NO	66.8	36.7 to 66.8	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.



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Grass Carp

District staff recently released hundreds of grass carp into canals and the ECO Park. Grass Carp and Hydrilla is a match made in heaven! While the fish are less than 8 inches in length when released, they will grow up to several feet and look like logs floating in the water. They immediately eat any hydrilla and grow very rapidly, thus reducing the amount of chemicals and harvesting that needs to be done by staff. The District has used Grass Carp for many years and has resulted in very little hydrilla growth in our water bodies. They are a safe and effective way to help control the spread of hydrilla.



Grass carp can eat 2 to 3 times their weight daily and may gain 5 to 10 pounds a year.



Creating Water Retention and Storage

The main reason that the Storm Water Treatment Area (ECO Park) was constructed was to meet the retention and storage requirements that the South Florida Water Management District had for Spring Lake. This retention and storage are part of a process that takes the stormwater and treats it so that the quality of water going thru our pump station, and eventually into Lake Istokpoga, has a higher water quality. While the STA

and our canals and ponds meet our needs for today, as more building and developments come into Spring Lake, we will lose the raw land that stormwater absorbs itself into. It is very important for the District to continually look for possible areas of retention and storage that can become part of our drainage system. We have been fortunate to have a good relationship with the golf resort and can expand and create their water bodies. This picture depicts the latest project that is a continuing plan for retention and storage endorsed and approved by our District Engineer.

Water Lines Extended East

The District has extended its water lines as far east as The Gator Shack, and have installed several fire hydrants. The water service will also be made available to the RV Park that is being constructed just east of Arbuckle Creek, south of Rt. 98, and behind The Gator Shack. Additionally, Inn The Woods, a project directly across from Thunder Road on the north side of Rt. 98, will be connecting their cabins and units to the system as well. This is the first extensive expansion of our water system to attract new customers, and the construction was provided by GO UNDERGROUND. As development occurs along the eastern edge of the Rt. 98 corridor, District utilities are available for connection.



SPRING LAKE

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

Highlands County a Great Partner for Spring Lake

Highlands County Road and Bridge staff are always available to help residents manage any drainage issues. If you feel that the swale in front of your house is not draining properly, you can request the county to come out and "shoot the grade" prior to lowering the level of your swale. Call them at 402-6529. With the hurricane season upon us, drainage is an important issue for all homeowners.

Highlands County did a great job in putting new layers of asphalt on both the ECO Park path as well as the basketball court. Both areas are heavily used, and the improvements are welcome. The County saved Spring Lake tens of thousands of dollars by providing asphalt and labor at cost.

