



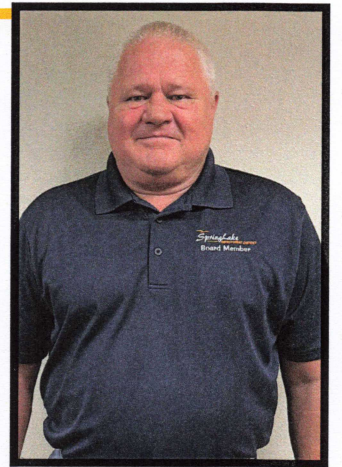
Spring Lake BREEZE

Florida... the way it should be!



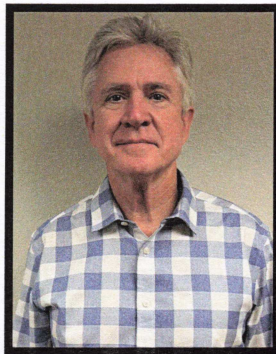
Newly Elected

At the November Landowner Meeting, Tim Roland was elected to one of the three Landowner positions on the Spring Lake Improvement District Board of Supervisors. His three year term of office will go through November of 2026. Tim and his wife of 44 years, Martha, moved to Spring Lake in 2018. Born and raised in Logansport, Indiana, Tim served in the U.S. Army for 26 years and retired as a Sergeant Major. He became very active in the Spring Lake Property Association, recently serving as a board member. Tim was responsible for the fabulous reconstruction of the new SLPA offices, and he will be using his skills to help remodel the Community Center kitchen and restrooms in 2024. Tim enjoys golfing, being outdoors, and time with his grandkids. He and Martha can often be seen riding around in their golf carts and viewing the fabulous sunsets at the ECO Park. Welcome to the Board and thank you for your service.



District Board Attorney

William J. Nielander has been the Attorney for the Spring Lake Improvement District since 2006. Mr. Nielander has been an attorney with offices in Lake Placid since 1984. During the past thirty years, he has represented the United States, New Zealand and Australian governments in administrative, regulatory and legislative matters.



His primary role with the District is to ensure that Spring Lake is in compliance with the Florida Statutes governing Special Districts and that we abide by the District Charter. Bill oversees all legal contracts and agreements, and is on retainer for all issues that come before the District.



Meet Your District Board



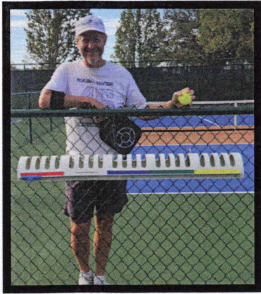
Pictured L-R: Butch Copeland, Tim Roland, Kay Gorham, Ken Kirk, Phil Gentry

Eco Works Field Test Begins

The new equipment is being installed behind our current wastewater plant, and District staff, along with ECO Works staff, will be testing the effluent daily. As thoroughly described in the January 2023 Breeze, which can be viewed on the District web site, this innovative approach to treating wastewater will have a tremendous impact on our process, our environment, and our budget. Pictured below is Deputy Manager Israel Serrano who traveled to California to tour the production plant and offer technical assistance to the ECO Works team. Spring Lake is the only entity field testing this equipment in the entire country. The unit is currently being assembled in Ocala as parts are being shipped in from around the world.



Pickleball Continues To Grow



Residents and guests continue to use the courts on daily basis, and the Sebring Pickleball Club has been very helpful in organizing and conducting clinics for people interested in learning the game. If you would like to join the Spring Lake Pickleball Club, or need more information, contact Pete Gosselin at 603-548-5272 or e-mail him at slpickleballclub@hotmail.com.



Walk for MADD



MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) held a Walk For MADD at the ECO Park to raise needed funds. The early morning start was greeted with a beautiful sunrise.



Resident Sue Dean's early morning walks produce the best pictures!



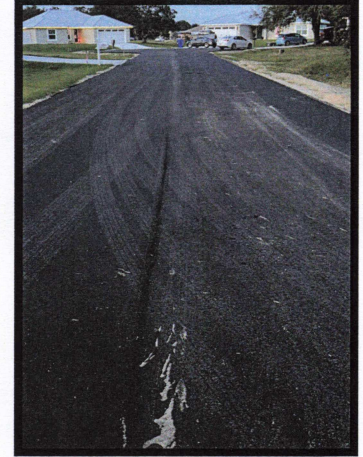
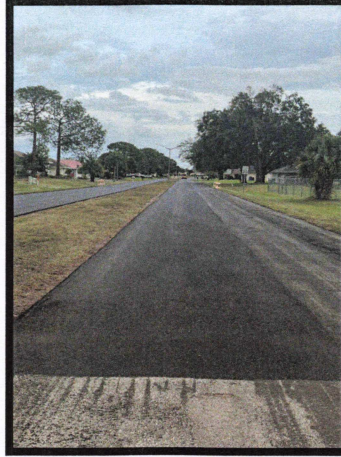
Pete Gosselin (right) presents an appreciation plaque to Board Chair Kay Gorham and Deputy Manager Israel Serrano. The Dog Club and Pickleball Club sponsored a Thank You Luncheon for District Board & Staff. This 4th Annual Event was organized by Monica Griffith and Pete.



It is regretful that many trees in Pine Breeze Park are dying and have to be removed. District staff have been creative in designing "tree stump chairs"

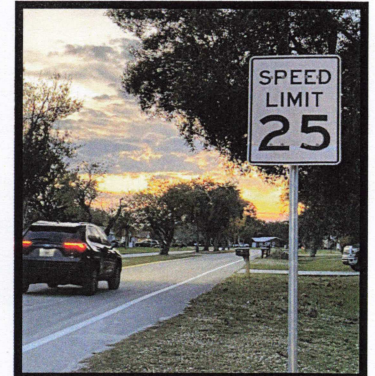
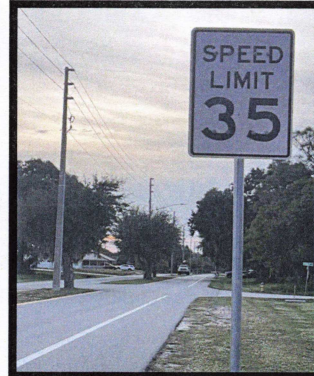
County Road Paving

All roads in Spring Lake are owned and maintained by Highlands County. The District is under contract to mow the medians and right of ways, but all repairs and replacement are coordinated by the County. There is a process the County goes through each year to give a grade to each road, and then informs Spring Lake what roads qualify for repair or replacement. The most current projects have been Vale Court and Spring Lake Blvd., pictured above. The County has also been removing trees in the medians that have been causing damage to the roadways as roots expand.



Speed Limit Signs Added

Thanks to County Commissioner and Spring Lake resident Don Elwell, the County has installed several new speed limit signs. Regardless of the number of signs on the roadways, it is still a personal responsibility to drive with caution on District streets. Duane Palmer Blvd. is the only Spring Lake road that allows 35 mph; all other roads are 25 mph. Speeding is prevalent on our streets and is a danger to the walkers and bikers. Please drive responsibly, golf carts included!!



Community Center Rental Revisions

Effective immediately, weekend reservations that are not cancelled within two weeks will forfeit their deposit. Too many cancellations have caused lost income for the District, and people who really needed that date lost out. Additionally, all deposits of \$100 are due at the time of making the reservation. The rules for the shelter remain the same; no charge for use on a first come first serve basis. As a result of additional electricity being added at the shelter for The Festival, blow up inflatables can now be easily used for your children's parties and events. For additional information phone the District Office at 655-1715



Development Continues

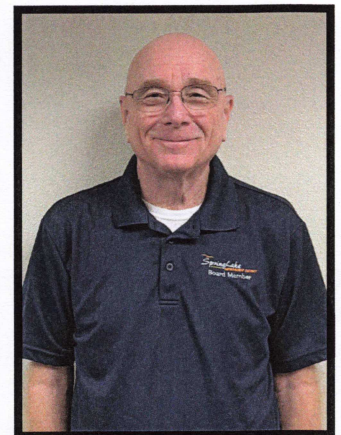
This past year has seen the most development ever in Spring Lake. As the apartments, Apex garages and townhomes, and the golf course reopens, our population will increase. That means we will attract the interest of a gas station, grocery store, and needed small businesses. All expansion, especially on Rt. 98, is being strictly monitored by your district Board and the SLPA to ensure we maintain a balance between our quality of life and the expansion of development.



Tomorrow Starts Today

When Tim McKenna suddenly passed away on February 4, 2023, he left behind a dream of expanding parks and recreation for Spring Lake. The Board recognized the importance of this initiative and set into motion a process to develop a short and long range plan for the expansion of parks and recreation. The District hired the well-known Bruce Hall and The Catalyst Group to aid in this process, and the first meeting was held on November 16th in the District office. A full day of discussion, touring, and sharing of ideas led to an outline for a 1-3-5 and 10 year plan for the District. Visuals and budgets are being prepared and the next

meeting will take place in early February. Once the draft plan is completed, the Board of Supervisors will review it and then set up a series of community meetings to involve our residents and landowners. This is one of the most exciting projects the District has embarked upon and will greatly impact future generations of Spring Lake residents.



Board Supervisor Ken Kirk is coordinating the process

AutoLend Library Popular With Residents

The installation of this unit by the County has helped a lot of people access their favorite books and tapes. It is easy to use, and the County frequently comes out to fill the unit with residents requests and to update the books in the machine. For more information or questions, contact Vikki Brown at 863-402-6716 or at vikki@myhic.org.



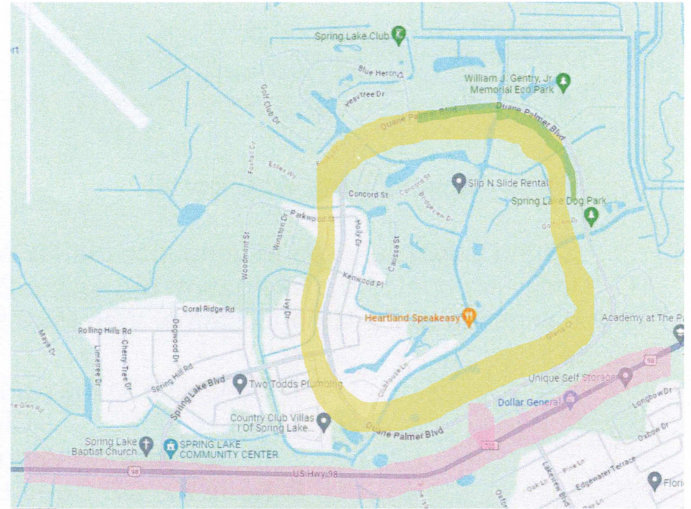
Central Florida Regional Planning Council

The CFRPC has worked with the District on several long range planning and vision projects, and have assisted the District in securing funds from several sources. The District Board, at its January meeting, approved a Memorandum of Understanding to work with the CRFPC on a project called Resiliency. A program that ensures communities are protected in the result of hurricanes or other disasters. Proper retention and storage of stormwater, back up generators for utility plants, pump station upgrades, emergency procedures, etc. The District will attend several workshops with other municipalities, coordinated by the CRFPC, and will then be eligible for grant funding to ensure resiliency for Spring Lake in the future. We have been asked to make a presentation on our Stormwater Treatment Area (ECO Park) at the initial meeting, as well as the new sewer treatment equipment that is being field tested in the District by the ECO Water company.

Bike Sebring Event at Spring Lake – Mar 23-24, 2024

Spring Lake is hosting the 2024 Bike Sebring UltraCycling event

- The event will start at 7 am on Sat. Mar 23 and is comprised of 4 events:
 - 100 mile event
 - 6 hour event
 - 12 hour event
 - 24 hour event
- All events will begin and end at the EcoPark entrance
- The 6,12, and 24 hour events will exit Spring Lake and ride a 36 mile loop around Sebring and back to EcoPark. Riders will continue to ride this 36 mile loop until they are unable to complete an entire loop before their event time is up, or it gets dark. They will then complete their event by riding the rest of their time on Duane Palmer Blvd riding counterclockwise (CCW). The 24-hour riders will continue to ride on Duane Palmer Blvd through the night until their event ends at 7am on Sun Mar 24.
- The 100 Mile event will leave Spring Lake at 11am on Sat. and ride 3- 32 mile laps around Sebring and then reenter Spring Lake to finish at the Eco Park.
- All events except the 24-hour event will be completed before dark.
- The map on the right shows the road locations that will be used within Spring Lake
- Registration and Awards will be at the Spring Lake Community Center



Yellow: CCW loop around Duane Palmer
Purple: Path to and from Sebring loop
Green: Crew setup near Eco Park

All cyclists will be riding CCW in the bike lane (where it exists) around Duane Palmer Blvd. and will never ride more than 2 abreast. Support crews are only allowed to setup in the green marked area alongside Duane Palmer Blvd. near the Eco Park away from homes. Eco Park will be available for resident use during the event, but we ask you to use extreme caution when entering and exiting Duane Palmer Blvd.

The Cyclists are very excited to be able to share Duane Palmer Road with you for their event and will treat the space with the respect it deserves. If you live on Duane Palmer, please use extra care when exiting and returning to your homes. Also, we welcome you to cheer them on as they pass by.

We appreciate the use of your neighborhood and donations will be collected to benefit the Spring Lake Benevolent Fund to express our thanks.

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ECO
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Sebring, Florida

Projecting
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All Luxury Apartments
Feature

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(including washer & dryer)
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Molded Marble Bathroom Counters
Luxury Vinyl Flooring • Window Coverings
Ceiling Fans • Keyless Entry
Pet Friendly
Utilities included in monthly rent



Rents Start at \$2095
Utilities Included



2 Bedroom
1 3/4 Bath



2 Bedroom
1 1/2 Bath



1 Bedroom
1 Bath



Water-Sewer Billing Web Portal

Spring Lake is excited to announce our **NEW Customer Web Portal**, enabling you to manage your utility account and make **payments online 24/7/365**. Creating your account is simple. First, start by navigating to the NEW Customer Web Portal using one of the three options below.





1. Go Online to the Spring Lake's Website: www.springlakefl.com
Click "**Customer Portal**"
2. Or navigate to the portal by going to <https://springlakefl.epayub.com>
3. **Scan the QR Code below** using your smartphone camera.

Once you have navigated to the Customer Web Portal, select "**Register**" to create an account. Once your account is created, you can pay your water-sewer bills, view your payment and usage history, and much more. Under the User Profile section, you can also sign up for text notifications. For example, you can receive text alerts once your bill is generated each quarter to let you know it is available to be viewed and paid online.

You can also select "**Quick Pay**" to make a payment online without creating an account.

Currently, Spring Lake Improvement District accepts the following Credit Cards/Debit Cards: Visa, MasterCard, and/or Discover. A per transaction Service Fee of 3% or \$2.25 minimum will be charged by the payment processing company for this service.

SAVE TIME. SKIP THE LINE. PAY ONLINE.

-  **VIEW USAGE HISTORY**
-  **VIEW PAYMENT HISTORY**
-  **SET UP RECURRING PAYMENTS**
-  **SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING**



Spring Lake Improvement District
115 Spring Lake Boulevard
Sebring, FL 33876-6143



Restricted Funds Help The District

There are three important restricted funds residents contribute to that benefit our community. Over a decade ago the first of these funds were established to help residents cover the costs of their utility bills. The Bark Park fund was established to help the Pawsitively Dog Club conduct special events and purchase needed items for the park. The McKenna Memorial Fund is the most recent, established after the death of Tim McKenna, long time SLID Board member and Chairman.

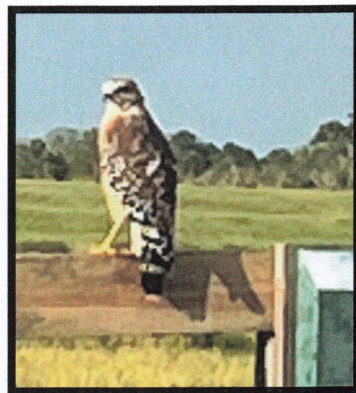
WATER ANGEL FUND: Human interest stories abound with the many people who have received credits on their water bills due to their circumstances. Single mothers with several children, out of work, and trying to make ends meet. Severe health challenges that put families into severe debt, unable to pay their bills. People who have lost their jobs need help until they find another job. Everyone who receives a credit is notified that an anonymous donor has provided funds to help defray the costs of their utility bills. District staff ensures that the need is valid, and continuously monitors all credits.

BARK PARK FUND: The Pawsitively Dog Club does a wonderful job in helping the District maintain what we consider to be the best dog park in the County. Most donations to this fund have come from people who have made a gift in honor of their deceased dog. When the original dog portraits were painted on the restroom building, a portion of those fees went to this fund. Monies are used for special events and securing needed supplies for the park.

MCKENNA MEMORIAL FUND: Long time Board member and Board Chairman, Tim McKenna, unexpectedly died on February 4, 2023. Tim was a very active and involved Board member and had a keen interest in the development of parks and recreation opportunities for Spring Lake. This fund was established to foster and perpetuate the recreational dreams that Tim had for his community and will complement future facility and equipment needs. The recently completed Pickleball Court was one of his initiatives.

To make a gift to any of these funds simply write out a check payable to SLID and in the memo section on your check state the fund you are supporting. If the gift is being made in the name of another individual or pet, let us know the name and address so that an appropriate note can be sent to those people.

Belle is a nightly rider on the golf cart and can be seen at the Bark Park with Scott and Christina Globes

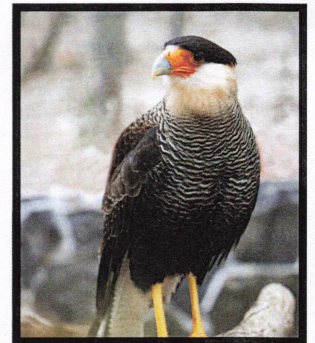


ECO Park is home to all types of wildlife

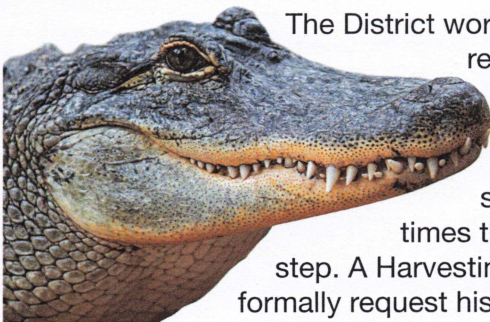


Spending a lazy afternoon at the Bark Park Fishing Pier

The Caracara Bird is also called the "Mexican Eagle" and is a protected species. Several are in Spring Lake



Nuisance Gators



The District works closely with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regarding nuisance alligator harvesting. Just because a resident sees a gator in a canal, or on a bank, that does not mean the gator has to be extracted. We have had a process in place for a number of years that works well. When our office is contacted a District staff member will visit the site to see if the gator is indeed dangerous and considered a nuisance. Many times the gator does not meet the removal criteria, but if it does we take the next step. A Harvesting Permit has been issued to an individual assigned to Spring Lake. We formally request his service and he comes out to remove the nuisance gator. A gator will not be removed from Spring Lake unless District staff approves the removal. Gators are an integral part of our community and environment, and we are very reluctant to remove them unless they are a true nuisance.

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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

Spring Lake Festival A Huge Success

Led by District Board Supervisor Phil Gentry, the October 28th Festival was the largest and most popular to date. Thanks to the assistance of District Staff, the Spring Lake Property Association, MC Don Elwell, and many volunteers, a good time was had by all. This collage of pictures tells it all.



2023

Spring Lake Fall Festival

For the latest news and events... Visit SpringLakeFL.com