

# District Notes & News



**South Indian River**  
*Water Control District™*

Established 1923

August 2014

## **SUPERVISORS**

**Michael Danchuk**  
*President*

**Tom Rice**  
*Vice-President*

**Stephen Hinkle**

**Tom Powell**

**Michael Ryan**

## **STAFF**

**Michael A. Dillon**  
*Manager of Operations*

**Holly Riggsby**  
*Office Administrator*

## **DISTRICT OFFICE**

15600 Jupiter Farms Road  
Jupiter, FL 33478  
(561) 747-0550

[www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org)  
[sirwcd@sirwcd.org](mailto:sirwcd@sirwcd.org)

### **Office Hours:**

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday-Friday

*The Board of Supervisors meets  
the third Thursday of each  
month at Jupiter High School  
at 7:30 p.m.*

*Visit the website for updated  
meeting information, agenda  
and staff reports.*

## **More Petitions Added to Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Projects**

At the July 10, 2014 South Indian River Water Control District Board of Supervisors monthly meeting, District Engineer Amy Eason reported that she had received and verified the following petitions in 2013 and 2014 for construction of asphalt roadways in Palm Beach Country Estates totalling approximately 6.4 miles:

- 67th Trail N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 68th Drive N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 71st Drive N between 155th Place N and 160th Street N
- 74th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 76th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 77th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 78th Drive N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 81st Terrace N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 85th Way N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 88th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 154th Court N between 75th Avenue N to C-18 Canal
- 159th Court N between 75th Avenue N to East End
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N and 79th Terrace N
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N and East End

The above list includes eight new petitions that had been submitted since the Board of Supervisors' meeting in May.

The following roadway in Jupiter Farms has petitioned for the application of OGEM and is approximately .5 miles:

- 164th Court N between Mellen Lane and Alexander Run

At their May board meeting, the Board of Supervisors had previously directed staff to move forward with the referenda for the Palm Beach Country Estates roadways, but instructed the engineer to hold off on the Jupiter Farms OGEM petition to see if additional roadways would come in.

Mrs. Eason asked for, and the Board passed by a vote of 3 to 2, a motion to amend the approval for the referenda for the proposed plan of improvements to include the petitions that had been received since the last meeting.

Mrs. Eason will present revised projects costs and estimates per parcel for this proposed plan of improvements at the August board meeting.

The board discussed a landowner request for a petition for a roadway to be designated as unpaved, though it was unclear if this could be done. The District's attorney, William Capko, noted that the District would have to request a change to the District's Special Act charter to have a non-improvement petition. He noted the Board could use the information provided by those seeking to keep a road unpaved to determine whether to proceed with a road improvement project. The Board asked Mr. Capko to investigate the issue and report back at the next meeting.

The board also discussed reviewing the current petition requirement of 35% for improvements and will revisit the issue at a later date.

For updated information on this landowner-initiated roadway improvement project as it becomes available, please check the District's website.



Michael Dillon  
Manager of Operations

## OBSTRUCTION OF DISTRICT SWALES

When a landowner is building a new home or doing extensive remodeling or renovation of their property within South Indian River Water Control District, they must ensure that their contractor installs a temporary culvert to prevent blockages in the swales that could impact their ability to handle stormwater runoff and cause flooding in that area.

All construction entrances must have at least a 12" x 20' temporary culvert. We do not recommend installing a permanent culvert during construction due to risk of damage by heavy vehicles accessing the site.

Under Chapter 298 of the Florida Statutes, "a person may not willfully, or otherwise, obstruct any public canal, drain, ditch or watercourse or damage or destroy any public drainage works constructed in or maintained by any district."

Anyone who obstructs a swale shall be liable for the full amount of any damages to property resulting from the obstruction and shall be liable to the District for double the cost of removing the obstruction and repairing the damages.

In addition, any person who willfully, or otherwise, obstructs the District's works commits a felony of the third degree and is punishable by law.

Any construction entrances that do not have a temporary culvert in place will be dug out without notice to allow for proper drainage.

At times like this, when the District is experiencing excessive amounts of rainfall, it is vital that proper construction procedures are followed to help ensure that the surrounding landowners' properties are protected from flooding.

### RAINFALL TOTALS FOR 2014 TO DATE

January	11.64"	April	1.62"	July	8.09"
February	2.84"	May	6.14		
March	4.43"	June	11.8"		

## Three Candidates Seek Board of Supervisors Seat

Ballots for this year's Board of Supervisor position will be mailed out to all landowners in August. This year, three candidates will seek the one seat up for election. Thomas Powell, who has been on the board since 1981, is running for reelection and two new candidates are running for the first time. Rick G. Lee is a resident of Palm Beach Country Estates, and John A. Meyer is a resident of Jupiter Farms.

According to the District's Special Act, the supervisor to be elected at this time may or may not reside in the District, but must reside in Palm Beach County and own land in the District.

Biographies on each candidate will be posted on the website after August 11.

Election ballots must be received at the District office no later than Sept. 18, or you may cast your ballot in person just prior to the start of the Annual Landowners' Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Jupiter High School on Sept. 18. Landowners should contact the District office at 561-747-0550 if they have questions regarding the election or if a ballot has been lost or damaged.

## Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water



"My swales are full!" This has been a common refrain by landowners in the District over the last couple of months and with good reason. The District has received nearly 20 inches of rainfall since the start of June, with more falling every day! These rainfall totals are more indicative of tropical storms or even hurricanes, as opposed to seasonal rainstorms.

The swales are doing their job and are performing as designed - they hold the stormwater running off of landowners' property and the roadways, and then infiltrate it into the ground below, where bioremediation breaks down pollutants. However, when the soils become saturated due to excessive rainfall, no more water will infiltrate into the ground and you will see standing water in the swales.

The District would like to remind landowners that they are responsible for maintenance of their driveway culverts to ensure they are not blocked with debris or have collapsed over time. If driveway culverts become blocked, this can interfere with drainage in swales and cause overflow onto nearby property.

In more urban areas, storm drains, catch basins and pipes collect and divert stormwater, often ending up in nearby

water bodies with little to no treatment of pollutants. In rural areas such as the District, stormwater is typically managed through a system of swales, with culverts that direct overflow to the canals that run through the District.

Interestingly, the use of infiltration is making a big comeback in the United States for the management of stormwater. For years, communities have been using "curb and gutter" to direct stormwater into storm drains and away from a site. However, the use of "green infrastructure" and low impact development is rapidly gaining in popularity and is now encouraged by the Environmental Protection Agency as a way to manage stormwater runoff by keeping rainwater on site and where it can infiltrate it back into the ground.



To learn more about low impact development and green infrastructure such as swales, rain gardens, bioretention, and permeable pavements and how they can help reduce stormwater runoff, please visit [http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/green\\_infrastructure/index.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/green_infrastructure/index.cfm) or <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/green/index.cfm>.

### ILLICIT DISCHARGE

If landowners witness anyone dumping materials into the District swales, canal system, or Palm Beach County catch basins, please report this to the District Office at 747-0550.

# Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Hookup

For the benefit of new residents moving to Palm Beach Country Estates, the District is repeating the information on potable water service.

The South Indian River Water Control District entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Jupiter to provide water service to Palm Beach Country Estates on June 21, 2005, and had negotiated a reduced hookup rate for landowners who wished to connect to the system.

This reduced rate was set to expire at the end of June 2012, however, District Treasurer Chuck Haas and the Board of Supervisors negotiated a new agreement with the Town to not only extend the reduced hookup rate for Palm Beach Country Estates landowners, but also offer financing for the hookup fee.

The District had previously established a hookup financing program for landowners, but this offer expired in June 2009.

The continuation of the agreement is an amendment to the original Interlocal Agreement between the Town and the District, where they will continue to provide financing incentives to Palm Beach Country Estates residents to hook up to the system. The agreement will continue until June 2015, with the option to renew for another three years. The District will continue to include future connection fees as a non-ad valorem assessment on those landowners' property taxes.

The new hookup fees are only slightly higher than the original fee agreement negotiated by the District nine years ago.

For 3/4 in. meter service, the fee is \$3,911.28, and for 1 in. meter service it is \$9,387.05. This is substantially less than Jupiter's current schedule of fees, which are over \$5,000 for 3/4 in. service and \$12,000 for 1 in. service for connections west of I-95.

Palm Beach Country Estates residents may still pay this reduced hookup fee up front if they wish or may finance the hookup fee through the Town of Jupiter.

The Town is offering a 20-year term at 5.5% resulting in an annual assessment, including collection costs, of approximately \$349.00 for a 3/4" meter service and \$837.00 for a 1" meter service. A deposit and application fee is required and cannot be financed.

A complete package, including application forms, sample fee statements, and Declaration of Restrictive Covenant is available on the District's website at [www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org). If you have any questions, call Jupiter's Water Utility Dept. at 561-741-2300 and press 0.

As of July 2014, 1,034 connections have been made to the potable water system, which is 67% of all parcels.

## 23rd Annual Landowners Family Day



Nearly 700 residents attended our 23rd Annual Landowners Family Day on Saturday, March 15! Everyone enjoyed Sonny's Bar-B-Q, listening to live music by the Tom Jackson Band, visiting exhibits by community and governmental organizations and all the fun activities for the kids! Mark your calendar for next year's event!





**South Indian River  
Water Control District™**

15600 Jupiter Farms Road  
Jupiter, FL 33478

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August 21**

**Board of Supervisor  
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Meeting September 18**

Visit [www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org)  
for news updates!

**Board of Supervisors Meeting Update**

In addition to the landowner-initiated road improvement project information reported on page one, the South Indian River Water Control District Board of Supervisors discussed a number of other issues.

District Treasurer Charles Haas reported that downward adjustments had been made to the assessments in the 2014-2105 budget, which has resulted in proposed assessments increasing only 1% for Palm Beach Country Estates and Jupiter Farms.

The Board discussed proposed improvements to the Margaret Berman Memorial Park in Palm Beach Country Estates that have been requested by residents, including three pavilions, a racquetball court and a basketball court at an estimated project cost of approximately \$295,765. Funding and assessment terms were discussed and the board voted unanimously to proceed with the projects to be assessed at \$45.00 per year for five years.

The Board also discussed the possibility of installing either a culvert or maintenance bridge over Canal C at 85th Street in Palm Beach Country Estates, but felt it was too costly and there was not enough benefit.

In addition, the Board reviewed two culvert projects and a canal bank widening in Jupiter Farms. The Board approved the installation of a culvert on Canal 7 and Alexander Run at an estimated project cost of \$64,400 and the widening of the canal bank at 175th and Jupiter Farms Road for an estimated \$72,800 project cost, which would be assessed at \$9.00 per year for five years.

Representatives from Jupiter Palm Beach Motorcoach Resort were also present at the meeting to request the District's permission to use their right-of-way along the south side of Canal 1 in Jupiter Farms for a sewer line. The Board did not come to a decision and directed District Engineer Amy Eason to meet with the owners again.

**Annual Budget Hearing  
and Annual  
Landowners' Meeting**

The South Indian River Water Control District Annual Budget Public Hearing will be held prior to the monthly board meeting on August 21 at the Jupiter High School at 7:30 pm.

Total assessments are proposed to increase just .2% from \$5,179,200 to \$5,187,000 for the 2014-2015 budget year.

For most of the landowners in Palm Beach Country Estates the proposed assessments will increase by about \$12.00 per parcel or 1.00% and for most landowners in Jupiter Farms, the proposed increase in assessments will be about \$3.00 per parcel or 1.05%, while those not receiving road maintenance will have their assessments reduced by 6.4%.

Assessments for landowners in Egret Landing are proposed to remain the same as last year.

The Annual Landowners' Meeting will be held September 18 at 7:30 pm at Jupiter High School.