

District Notes & News



Established 1923

May/June 2007

SUPERVISORS

Thomas H. Powell

President

Tom Rice

Vice-President

David Beane

Robert Berman

Michael Danchuk

STAFF

Gale English

General Manager

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Office Hours:

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

Monday-Friday

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

*Contact the District Office
for an agenda.*



Left to right: President of the Board of Supervisors Tom Powell, Jesse Wilson, P.E. of Natural Resources Conservation Service, and General Manager Gale English

16TH ANNUAL LANDOWNERS FAMILY DAY CELEBRATED ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) celebrated their 16th annual Landowners Family Day at the District Work Center on Saturday, March 17. Over 650 residents from Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, and Egret Landing enjoyed a barbeque lunch, live music, and displays by local and state community and service organizations on a gorgeous St. Patrick's Day.

District Supervisors Tom Powell, Tom Rice, Dave Beane, Mike Danchuk and Bob Berman, as well as District General Manager Gale English and his staff, were on hand to welcome landowners to the event.

This year, residents enjoyed chicken, pulled pork, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and coleslaw prepared and served by Park Avenue BBQ & Grille, which will be opening a new restaurant in Jupiter Farms. Entertainment was provided by a new bluegrass band, The Untold Riches, who were warmly received by the crowd.

For the children, Cock-A-Doodle-Do provided a petting zoo and bounce house, and as always, the kids loved getting their faces painted by Cookie the Clown.

A number of exhibitors offered visitors information on local and state organizations, governmental agencies, local services, and fire safety and prevention, with free give-a-ways that included plants, pens and pencils, hats, pins, coloring books, and more. Exhibitors this year included Jupiter Farms Residents and the Jupiter Farmer, Florida Blood Centers, Community Connections, the Drowning Coalition of Palm Beach County, Florida Division of Forestry, Jupiter Farms Citizens on Patrol, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections, the Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County, Equine Rescue and Adoption Foundation, Jupiter Farms CERT, and Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resource Management.

In addition, Gale English presented a crystal award to Jesse Wilson, P.E. a state conservation engineer with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS),

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in appreciation of the institutional and financial support provided to the District during their 2004-2005 hurricane recovery projects. Wilson is with the Florida office of the Eastern Region of the NRCS and came down from their Gainesville office to receive the award and attend Family Day.

"I thoroughly enjoyed meeting some of the landowners in the District," said Wilson. "It has been a great experience working with Gale English and his staff, as well as representatives of LBFH, Inc., the engineers for the District," he added.

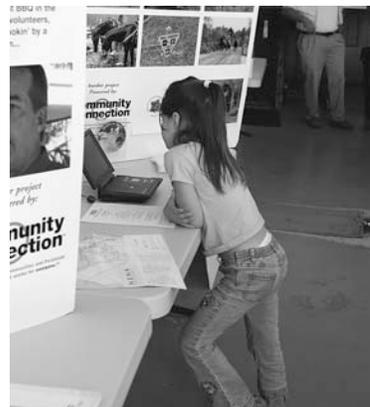


The Annual Landowners Family Day had historically been held in October or November every year. However, when the



event had to be rescheduled in 2005 due to Hurricane Wilma, everyone agreed that springtime is a better time for the event. Plans call for next year's event to be held in March. Watch your newsletter for updates.

If you haven't been to a Landowners Family Day yet, you're missing out on all the family fun. The event is free and open to all landowners in the District. It is a great way to meet your neighbors, discuss concerns with your Supervisors, and meet the District staff! See you next year!



14th Plan of Improvements Project Update

At their April board meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a financing proposal by Regions Bank for funding the proposed 14th Plan of Improvements for the application of open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) to nearly 14 miles of roadway in Jupiter Farms. District Treasurer Charles Haas reported that Regions offered the best rate compared to four other financial institutions who submitted proposals for the project. The annual assessment is estimated to be approximately \$515.00 per year for 20 years.

The District Engineer, Len J. Lindahl, is currently in final bid negotiations with paving contractors and the project will proceed as soon as the financing is in place.

Hurricane Tips for Landowners

District personnel are trained in hurricane response procedures and attend conferences conducted by the state and county emergency management offices. Our staff was quick to assist the county after the 2004-2005 storms.

As a landowner, you can do a number of things to help protect your family, your home, and your neighbors when a hurricane threatens our area. Remove dead limbs and branches as soon as possible, though this should not be done just prior to a storm warning. Small items such as garden decorations, toys, and tools, should be brought inside or stored in a sturdy shed that has been secured against high winds. Lawn and patio furniture should be brought inside.

At the start of hurricane season, stock up on non-perishable foods and water, batteries, flashlights and lanterns, first aid kits, prescription medications, gas for generators, propane for grills, tarps, bug repellent, and a supply of cash (ATMs did not work in many places for days after the hurricanes). Secure your home with some type of window protection if a hurricane warning is issued.

In an event of a hurricane, there will be downed trees and power lines, high water levels and possible flooding. Avoid walking in high water due to bacteria and pollutants that may be present or downed power lines that may become active. While you may be tempted to explore, it can be a hindrance to emergency personnel and utility repair crews.

PALM BEACH COUNTRY ESTATES POTABLE WATER UPDATE

With dry weather for the last few months, the contractor for the Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Project, Felix Associates, LLC, has been moving quickly. They are currently installing the water main in the second Milestone. All pipe and services in the first Milestone have been installed. The preliminary punch list items have been completed in the first Milestone and this area has been flushed and pre-tested. To date the following water main installations have been completed:

- All streets in Milestone #1
- 77th Trail North, west to 89th Ave. North between 159th Court North and 155th Place North, including all services (Milestone #2)
- 82nd Terrace North west to 89th Ave. North between 155th Place North and 150th Court North (Milestone #2)
- 154th Court North between 77th Tr. North and 89th Ave. North (Milestone #2)
- 155th Place North between 77th Tr. North and 85th Way North (Milestone #2)

Restoration activities in Milestone #1 are approximately 95% complete and the contractor is currently working on completing seeding, mulching, and driveway restoration for this area. Pavement cut repairs along 75th Avenue North and 155th Place North also have been completed.

Additionally, the contractor is currently working on restoration activities in Milestone #2. Regrading of swales, seeding, mulching, and installation of fire hydrants and valve pads is currently underway. All directional bores included as part of Milestone #2 have been completed and services for this section are about 85% complete.



Installation of potable water service in PBCE is on schedule for February 2008 completion

Testing of the completed areas in the southern section of Milestone #1 will be done first, with the northern section of Milestone #1 immediately following. Revised record drawings for Milestone #1B (southern section of Milestone #1) have been submitted to the Town of Jupiter.

Upon acceptance of the record drawings by the Town of Jupiter, testing can commence. After the testing and certifications are complete for Milestone #1, landowners who reside in this area who wish to be serviced by the new water system may take the steps necessary to hook up to the system. The anticipated available hook up date for Milestone #1 is in July. Milestone #2 is anticipated to be ready for hookup by September 2007, and Milestone #3, by January 2008.

Field representatives of LBFH, Inc., engineers for the District, continue to work with residents in the field and address any questions they may have, as well as obtain service location information for those landowners who have not turned in a service location form. Any questions on the project may be addressed to Marcelo Dimitriou at LBFH, Inc., at 772-219-2953.

Please watch your mail for information regarding hooking up to the potable water system. As reported in previous editions of this newsletter, landowners are not required to hook up to the system. For landowners wishing to connect, the Town of Jupiter will charge a fee of approximately \$3,877.00 for a typical 5/8" x 3/4" service. SIRWCD has arranged that the current hook up fee will remain the same for a period of seven years. After this time, fees would most likely increase. If desired, SIRWCD also can arrange to finance the cost of hooking up to the system. This information will be included in the letter to be sent to all landowners. District Treasurer Charles Haas has noted that if landowners hook up to the system quickly, assessment costs would be reduced for everyone.

Please note there would be an additional cost to run plumbing from the system to a home, which will be the responsibility of the property owner.



Costs may vary for this depending on where a home is situated on a lot. This cost will not be included in the financing package.

At the Board of Supervisors meeting in April, Haas recommended that the Board select Regions Bank's proposal for the financing package for the potable water hookup program. Regions offered the best combination of reasonable loan conditions and the most competitive interest rate. Haas added that District Staff had met with representatives from the Town of Jupiter Utilities Division and had agreed upon the following procedures to interface the SIRWCD Financing Program with the Town's Customer Acceptance procedures, pending final approval by David Brown, Town of Jupiter's Director of Utilities.

1. SIRWCD will receive the signed assessment agreement from a landowner.
2. SIRWCD will send an authorization letter to the Town with a copy to the landowner.
3. The landowner will set up their account directly with the Town and be required to pay a security deposit of \$60.00. The Town will use the authorization letter to credit the landowner for their connection and meter charges.
4. At the end of each month, the Town will invoice SIRWCD for all authorization letters sent to them during that month.
5. SIRWCD will draw on the Line of Credit for the amount needed to pay the invoice.

Of course, landowners may choose to pay the hook up costs up front. This program is simply a service to those landowners who would like to spread their payments out over time.

As a reminder, residents will still be able to use well water for landscape irrigation if they do elect to hook up to the potable water system.



15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478

PRSR STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
WEST PALM BCH FL
PERMIT # 611

Watch Your Mail for Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Hook Up Information... Coming Soon!

Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

One Day a Week Water Restrictions Now In Effect

The South Florida Water Management District (SWFMD) has implemented Phase Three Water Restrictions in Palm Beach County. On May 10, water managers announced some of the toughest restrictions ever in response to one of the worst droughts in history.

The new rules started May 16 with odd-numbered addresses allowed to water yards only on Saturdays, between 4 and 8 a.m., with hand watering also allowed between 5 and 7 p.m. Even-numbered addresses are allowed to water between the same times only on Sundays. Residents could face fines of \$25 to \$500 a day if they don't comply with the new restrictions.

The situation is so bad that Lake Worth, Lantana, Dania Beach and Hallendale have had to stop using some coastal wells, as they are in danger of contamination by saltwater seepage due to low groundwater levels. According to SFWMD officials, if salt gets in the wells, they won't recover for decades.

Water restrictions are expected to remain in effect until at least the summer rainy season and are subject to change.

Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

With the enactment of strict new water restrictions, the management of stormwater takes on a new urgency. States, cities, and other governing agencies are required to limit stormwater runoff impacts under the regulations of the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge System (NPDES) program. However, the management of stormwater runoff also is a major component of newer programs such as Low Impact Development (LID) and Smart Growth initiatives by the EPA.

While there are a number of things District landowners can do to help manage stormwater, some practices also will help to conserve water and replenish groundwater in this time of severe drought.

If you are considering putting in a patio, driveway or walkway, think about using permeable pavement instead of solid asphalt or concrete so that rainwater will infiltrate through it and into the ground.

A great way to improve water quality on your property is to build a rain garden. Rain gardens are landscaped, low areas that are situated slightly down slope from your

home or driveway to capture runoff from these impervious surfaces. During storms, the rain garden fills with a few inches of water, which slowly percolates into the ground, filtering pollutants and recharging groundwater, instead of running off. Compared to a corresponding area of conventional lawn, a rain garden can infiltrate about 30% more water into the ground.

Rain gardens can be thought of as a "beautiful solution to pollution." While rain gardens are initially more work than turfgrass, once plants are mature, maintenance is low. They should be designed with native species that can tolerate drought, if necessary. For more information on rain gardens, visit TAPPwater.org.

Also don't forget to reduce pesticide and fertilizer use to minimize pollutants!

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

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