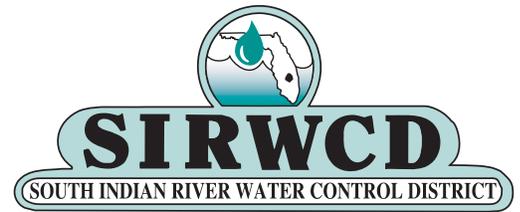


# District Notes & News



Established 1923

March 2011

## SUPERVISORS

Thomas H. Powell  
*President*

Tom Rice  
*Vice-President*

David Beane

Michael Danchuk

Michael Ryan

## STAFF

Gale English  
*General Manager*

Greta Rayman  
*Office Administrator*

## DISTRICT OFFICE

15600 Jupiter Farms Road

Jupiter, FL 33478  
(561) 747-0550

www.sirwcd.org  
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 the Jupiter High  
School Guidance Office  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Contact the District Office  
for an agenda.*

## Looking Back at 30 Years of Service to the District

*by Gale English, General Manager*

By the early 1970s, 60 miles of canals and 185 miles of roadways had been established in the South Indian River Water Control District. As a heavy equipment operator, I personally constructed many of the roads, as well as doing extensive work on the drainage system. All of this was accomplished virtually under water, as there was no drainage other than pumps and temporary water removal equipment.

When I had occasion to return to the District in the late 1970s, the system had regressed into a virtually native state with eroded road swales lacking stabilization and effective stormwater outfall. The canals, which had previously been so carefully constructed, were overgrown, with shoaling and deterioration reaching from bank to bank in many areas. Nature was in the process of reclaiming its own!

It was under these conditions that I applied for and was hired to reestablish the system and build a cadre of operators trained in road construction and stormwater removal infrastructure. They were trained in systems restoration, including installation of 60" x 72" diameter road crossing culverts complete with riprap and shoulder stabilization.



*Gale English discusses the District's telemetry system with former Congressman Clay Shaw*

We immediately began cleaning the canals to original cross sections and grade levels – an 18-month operation. Following the physical restructuring, we entered into a herbicide program approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and began controlling the exotic growth within the canals by spraying, a system that is being utilized to this date with good effect.

Lastly, the east basin canals in Palm Beach Country Estates were reconstructed and widened. The inclusion of fixed weirs designed to restrict storm-water outflows and conserve needed recharge water into the surficial aquifer was a major step forward in managing surface waters.

Later, with grants from Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), telemetry weirs were installed in the west basin canals, which gave us the ability to monitor water levels, as well as restrict outflow levels when surface water was low. The weirs also served as collection points for aquatic floating weeds, which was

*continued on page 2*

## 30 Years of Service to the District

*continued from page 1*



*Board of Supervisors President Tom Powell and District Manager Gale English present Jesse Wilson, P.E. of the Natural Resources Conservation Service with an award at the 2007 Annual Landowners Family Day in appreciation of the institutional and financial support provided to the District for the 2004-2005 hurricane recovery projects*

beneficial to the down-stream health of the Northwest fork of the Loxahatchee River.

Other agencies, such as the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), gave us grants totaling approximately six million dollars for infrastructure reconstruction and tree removal, as well as for culverting and rock riprap on canal banks, following hurricanes in 2004 and 2005.

In 1981, the road system was essentially sand ruts with no paving at all. The drainage system of swales and connecting outfalls was virtually non-existent. You were asking for trouble if you attempted to travel these roads without a 4-wheel drive vehicle!



*General Manager Gale English discusses NRCS agreement for Hurricane Wilma repairs with District Engineers Len J. Lindahl and Amy Eason, David Logan of Murray Logan Construction, Inc. and Elwyn Cooper of the NRCS*

At that time, one motor grader, one tractor mower, a small backhoe and a small bulldozer were the extent of the District's maintenance rolling stock. The Board of Supervisors at that time responded by doubling the stabilization material budget, as well as the equipment replacement budget. We then inaugurated an accelerated process of stabilizing road surfaces and installing drainage culverts, which began to pay dividends immediately.

In the mid-1980s, the District began a period of rapid growth with virtually every road being impacted. We had maintained our stabilized roads for as long as possible, and the Board began receiving referendum authority from the residents to pave certain collector roads. These roads were bonded and constructed, then turned over to Palm Beach County as a component of their transportation infrastructure. To ensure maintenance of shoulders, swales, and culverting, the District entered into a contract with Palm Beach County to provide these services, a contract that is still in effect in 2011.

The District continued its phenomenal growth through the 1990s and into the new millennium, which ultimately resulted in the District receiving more petitions for paving by the landowners. The 40-45 miles of paving in Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates is of two types, Open Graded Emulsified Mix (OGEM) and Palm Beach County standard hot mix asphalt.

Time and space limitations do not permit me to include every detail of the last 30 years, but there has not been one day that I have ever considered leaving the District. I have been privileged over the years to work with excellent and dedicated Board members, as well as outstanding staff and employees. I am honored to have contributed a small part in the development of a

unique place to live, which I feel will only get better with time.

Through my association with the District, and with the support and encouragement of the Board of Supervisors, I have had the opportunity to participate in other programs and activities over the years:

- Mayor of Mangonia Park (8 years)
- Florida Association of Special Districts President (4 years)
- Palm Beach County League of Cities President
- Intergovernmental Coordinating Element – Chair (16 years)
- Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative – Vice-Chair (current)
- Council Of Governments – Vice-Chair (current)
- Safety Council of Palm Beach County Board member (15 years)
- Gold Coast League (Dade, Broward, Palm Beach) – Board member (1 year)
- Circuit Court Mediator, certified and appointed by the Florida Supreme Court (7 years)



- Governor-appointed Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (2 years)
- Palm Beach Community College and Florida Atlantic sessions (2 years)
- Institute of Government – Board member (2 years)
- Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council (current)
- Water Resources Task Force – appointed by Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (current)

The years have gone by quickly and the District is hardly recognizable from its early days. Some days were difficult and frustrating, but every day was a good day, working together with others in the community effort towards a common goal of systems maturity. Concomitantly, a relational camaraderie was and is being established that will endure a lifetime. May the Lord continue to endow each of us with heaven's blessings.

*South Indian River Water Control District  
cordially invites you to attend the*

# *20th Annual Landowners Family Day*



***Saturday, March 12, 2011***

***11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the District Work Center***

**Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing and Jupiter Commerce Park**

***Meet the Supervisors & Staff • Get to know your neighbors***

## ***Fun for the Whole Family!***

✧ Delicious Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q Lunch ✧

✧ Tom Jackson Band ✧  
Country Music

✧ Cock-A-Doodle-Do ✧

**Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Bounce House & Face Painting**



## **Community Exhibits - Free Information & Give-a-ways!**

**Citizens On Patrol • Florida Division of Forestry • Florida's Blood Centers**

**Jupiter Farmer • Jupiter Farms Residents**

**Loxahatchee River Coalition • Northeast Everglades Trail Association**

**Palm Beach County Fire Rescue**

**Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department**

**Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office - Crime Prevention Unit**

*(featuring McGruff the Crime Dog®)*

**Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office - Mounted Unit**

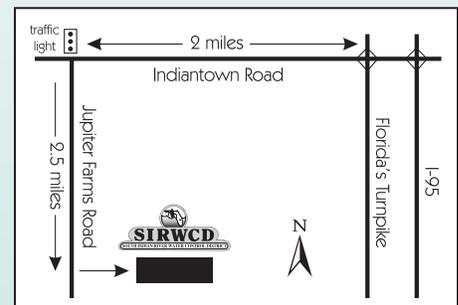
**Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections**

**Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Inc. • Solid Waste Authority**

**South Florida Water Management District**

**Young Marines of the Palm Beaches**

*(Color guard to present the nation's colors at noon)*



**RSVP to Greta Rayman 747-0550**



15600 Jupiter Farms Road  
Jupiter, FL 33478

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## In this Issue...

*Family Fun at the  
20th Annual  
Landowners Family Day  
Saturday, March 12  
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.*

- *Sonny's Bar-B-Q*
- *Tom Jackson Band*
- *Cock-A-Doodle-Do*

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

## Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

Impervious surfaces are a major source of stormwater runoff in the United States. As we've previously reported, rain water that runs off instead of infiltrating into the ground carries with it many pollutants that eventually end up in surface waters such as streams, lakes and rivers. This affects water quality, which impacts fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. It also limits use by humans for drinking, swimming, and other recreation. In urban areas, this has become an urgent issue and legislation has been enacted by not only the state and local governments, but also at the federal level, where limits on the amount of runoff are regulated.

Just what is an impervious or impermeable surface? It is a surface that does not allow for the passage of water through its surface. Paving is the most obvious impervious surface because we see it everyday, almost everywhere. Another impervious surface that many people don't think about is roofs. Roofs are designed to keep water out of our homes and businesses, which means that rainfall runs off onto the

surrounding area. Even structures on your property, such as carports, barns, and sheds, contribute to "impervious area" on your lot.

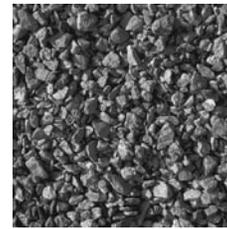
With drought becoming more commonplace, it is even more important to try to limit impervious areas on your property and capture runoff from your structures for reuse or groundwater recharge.

While you obviously cannot make your roof pervious, you can capture rainfall from it with gutters and downspouts directed to rainbarrels, or you can add planting beds around your home that will help capture rainfall running off the roof.

When designing a patio or walkways, you can use attractive permeable bricks, stone, or pavers, which utilize aggregate in joints to allow water to flow through and into the ground. For driveways, you can select permeable



Permeable Concrete Pavers



Gravel



Pervious Concrete

pavers, gravel, porous asphalt, pervious concrete or natural soils to help infiltrate rain water.

Combine these with other water saving practices, such as using native plantings that require little water and can withstand drought conditions, to really reduce your impact on the environment and protect Florida's water.

### 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.