

# Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District

## 2004 Community News



### A Message To The Residents

**Economic stimulation and financial infusion to Sun 'n Lake of Sebring community and Highlands County, is just the beginning in mapping out the plan**

Citizens of Highlands County may not realize the financial impact of the recent business transaction between National Recreation Properties, Inc., (NRPI) and Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District. The entire county will reap benefits from the unanticipated estimated 2 million dollars of back taxes paid to the County this year along with the recurring revenue source that this transaction puts in motion. As a community sometimes gone unnoticed in the past, it is hard to realize that just 15 years ago, Sun 'n Lakes was predominately an undeveloped district with an exclusive golf community core. As Sun 'n Lake of Sebring celebrates 30 years of community and continued success for new opportunities and development, the community is bountiful with diversity and is now the home to thousands of residents and families. With the recent sale of approximately 1,900 lots to NRPI, we expect to double our population by 2008. Current statistics show that Sun 'n Lakes is a little more than 4% growth per year compared to the county-wide growth of just over 2% per year for the last several years. As demographics change, roadblocks surface that can prevent seeing old problems in a new light, thus the need arises to find promising tools to work on perpetual challenges and changes. One significant challenge is finding a way to channel some of the taxes raised by Sun 'n Lake residents back into their community by local road, infrastructure, and park improvements. The Board of Supervisors and staff have been working for a long time here to be good neighbors within Highlands County and they want to be a part of the overall development plan. Although faced with challenge and obstacles, the Board of Supervisors remain focused and in steady pursuit of executing the community vision of sustainability and prosperity for our residents, with the belief that ignoring growth and development is not static, however degenerate. Sun 'n Lake of Sebring, like surrounding communities has been plagued with distractions and detours, however, Board members vow that those sideline items will not diffuse time and energy from their focus on what is truly important to the community and to progress in a natural and necessary way. They understand the work of leadership is everyone's job to accomplish meaningful ends. Sun 'n Lake of Sebring staff continues to talk to investors and is serious about continuing to encourage smart growth. The Board of Supervisors understands that costs of misreading a situation can be critical and each step will be taken cautiously, but optimistically.

August/Sept. Bulletin

***Mr. George (Bud) Puffenberger was named as Interim General Manager by the Board of Supervisors. He can be reached at the District at 382-2196.***

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New Community Event Schedule Insert

# Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District

## Building a Vision for the Future

As Sun 'n Lake of Sebring turns 30, it is a defining point for the community. Benchmarks have been set for standards of success and many have been reached. The community has been given priority ranking by the County to receive its first ever major transportation grant for sidewalks and beautification in the amount of \$428,000. Work will begin soon on another funding opportunity that will re-landscape the entrance of Sun 'n Lake Boulevard. The District has begun purchasing goods based on contract pricing competitively bid items by the County, in order to receive best pricing and economy of scale services. Neighborhood Park projects are being explored with requested funding through state and federal sources. Soon a cost allocation study will soon will be underway to help determine what funding leaves the community versus what comes back. We will explore policies, practices and funding sources from local governments that could improve the Districts situation and support steady economic growth. The District is focused on bringing regional facilities into the district to re-coup funding funneled out. We firmly believe that the District is on a productive path to improve our community and provide the best possible services. We will continue to take steps in order to create a local government you can be proud of and have confidence in.

### Help Keep Sun 'n Lake Beautiful



In an effort to maintain the aesthetics and safety of our community, minimum standards were adopted which prohibit any operational motor vehicle in the front yard on any areas except the prepared surface. The standards also prohibit parking vehicles behind or to the side of a structure behind the front building line except on a temporary basis. If you receive a warning tag, you have until August 31st to comply.

### Community Safety Project

The Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District and The Highlands County Sheriff's Office held a community bike rodeo to teach children the essentials of bicycle safety and the importance of wearing a helmet. The event was held on Tuesday, June 15th at the Community Center and over 75 helmets were given out to the children. Two lucky winners took home new bicycles from the rodeo.



### John Negley Says Goodbye to Highlands County/Sun 'n Lake

Mr. Negley, Sun 'n Lake Board of Supervisor has lived in Highlands County since 1992. While he has enjoyed the quality of living and his service to the community, and his work at Florida Hospital, he and his wife Eileen have decided to answer a calling to a new and exciting mission field for an Adventist based radio and television ministry located in California. Good luck Mr. Negley and thank you for your service to our community.



# Recreation at Sun 'n Lake

**Building Community—finding new ways to recreate.**

## Benefits of Recreation and Leisure

- Be Happier and Feel Great!
- Build Family Unity
- Take Care of Latch Key Children and Adults, Provide Child Care
- Control Weight, Look Better, Build Strong Bodies
- Diminish Chance of Disease, Decrease Insurance Costs, Live Longer!
- Build Self-Esteem
- Reduce Stress and Relax!
- Promote Sensitivity to Cultural Diversity
- Eliminate Loneliness, Conquer Boredom!
- Increase Community Pride-Strengthen Neighborhood Involvement
- Reduce Crime, Diminish Gang Violence, Provide Safe Places to Play
- Meet Friends, Create Memories!
- Generate Revenue
- Lower Health Care Costs
- Boost Economy, Reduce Unemployment
- Curb Employee Absenteeism, Boost Employee Moral
- Increase Tourism
- Increase Property Value-Attract New Business
- Protect the Environment
- Provide Space to Enjoy Nature, Clean Air and Water
- Enhance Relationship Skills, Teach Vital Life Skills
- Offer a Place for Social Interaction

## We Need You!

Do you have a special talent you would like to share with others? Do you enjoy working with people of all ages? If so, then you could become an instructor or volunteer for the Sun 'n Lake Recreation and Leisure Services Division and make a difference by teaching new skills to others while providing an opportunity to socialize and meet new people. A new Programming Committee is also being formed for those wishing to assist with forming new programs for the District. If interested in instructing a class, joining the Programming Committee, volunteering at events or offering program suggestions, contact Recreation and Social Coordinator Erin Hess at 382-2077 or via email at [ehess@snldistrict.org](mailto:ehess@snldistrict.org).



## Sun 'n Lake/YMCA Summer Day Camp 2004

Sun 'n Lake Improvement District partnered with the Highlands County YMCA to operate a summer youth program. The 10 week program ran from June 1st to August 6th and included crafts, games, and trips for boys and girls aged 5-12. The YMCA summer camp was a huge success and the District would like to send a special thanks to everyone involved. We look forward to a bigger and better summer 2005!

**Making community progress.. One child at a time!**





## SUN 'N LAKE OF SEBRING IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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### Year-Round Water Conservation Measures

- Even numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays and/or Saturdays.
- Odd numbered addresses, or where no address can be determined, may water on Wednesdays and/or Sundays.
- Watering must be accomplished before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- Certain exemptions and exceptions apply, including the ability to use low-volume irrigation to water non-lawn areas on other days of the week.
- New plant material may be irrigated during a 60-day establishment period (restrictions apply).
- This Rule also includes additional measures for agriculture, golf courses, and other water users.

*Do Your Part - Irrigate Smart*

Southwest Florida *Water Management District*

- Over-watering is just as harmful as under watering. Too much water can cause root rot and other plant diseases.
- Determine how much and how evenly water is being applied by your sprinkler system. Call the District for a free brochure on how to measure the amount of water your irrigation system is spraying in your yard.
- Check sprinkler systems and timing devices regularly to make sure they are working right. Watch for broken or misdirected sprinklers. Broken pipes can waste five to 10 gallons per minute.
- Become familiar with the water restrictions in your area. Report water restrictions violators to local utility officials.
- Adjust your irrigation system according to the season - fewer applications during the summer rainy season and the cooler, winter months.
- Did you know that all new irrigation systems must have an automatic rain shut-off device? That's right; it is now a Florida law. And, having a rain shut-off device is a worthwhile whether your system is hooked up to reclaimed water or not.
- Only water in the early morning hours or early evening. Water evaporates quickly on hot and windy days.
- For every 10 minutes you ordinarily water, shorten the time by one minute. This will result in a 10 percent savings.
- Use drip irrigation on shrubs and beds whenever possible. A slow, direct watering on the soil and at the roots saves water and keeps the foliage dry, preventing diseases.
- When landscaping, group plants together that use the same amount of water and sunlight. If similar plants are grown together, then you won't have to over water or under water to accommodate their different water needs.