

Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District

2004 Community News



October/November Bulletin

Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Preparing for Community Visioning

According to the Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Board of Supervisors, the time has come to seek communitywide participation in forming a vision to continue to move Sun 'n Lake of Sebring forward in a way that will make a tangible difference in the future performance of the District. The greatest strategic challenge we see at this point is reaching community consensus on the correct goals and objectives for the community. A new emphasis on thinking and acting as a unified community and encouraging better cooperation between citizens, municipalities, county, private sector, state and regional agencies, will be imperative to assure appropriate revenue distribution and attention to competitive advantages that are abundant within our community. The best way to achieve success is to create it by producing a vision of the future, and then employing a process to achieve the goals identified through a community visioning project. Once the committee is formed, that will not be the end of involvement, rather, at certain points during the visioning process, the group will solicit feedback from the community in order to direct or refine their planning goals. We are asking for help from the citizens, businesses and faith community of Sun 'n Lake to participate in this process. If you do not have a personal desire to join, you may know individuals that would be willing to devote their time to this group. Anyone interested can contact the district at 382-2196 and speak with Lisa McGehee for further details.

Yard/Garbage Debris Removal

Residential storm debris within Sun 'n Lake will be picked up on Thursday, October 7, 2004 and again on October 14. There will be no debris pick up after these dates other than the County's regular pickup as detailed below. We would like to thank you for your patience during the recent storm events. For additional information, please contact Bill Weakley at 382-2196.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY SOLID WASTE REQUIREMENTS & REGUAR COLLECTION

RESIDENTIAL: Collections begin at 7:00 A.M. All residential garbage is collected two times per week. Garbage must be in containers of not more than 35 gallon capacity, or in bags with maximum weight of 50 pounds. Furniture and bedding will be collected on the normal garbage days.

YARD WASTE: Collection is two times per month on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Everything must be canned, bagged or bundled, with maximum weight of 50 pounds and maximum length of 6 feet.

NOTE: The maximum amount that the hauler is required to pick up is 2 cubic yards. Anything over this amount can be picked up for an additional fee. Please contact your hauler for more information.

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NEW HOURS OF OPERATION

Sun 'n Lake of Sebring announces new Towne Hall hours to better accommodate the needs of our residents. Beginning Monday, October 4th Towne Hall will open 30 minutes earlier. The new hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We look forward to serving you.

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



August through September has been a rough time for all of us this year. Beginning on August 13th when Hurricane Charley passed over Sebring, and of course Sun 'n Lake, followed by Frances on September 5th and Jeanne on September 25th. Cleanup from Charley and Frances had barely been completed, when Jeanne struck with even more destructive force. The cleanup begins over again with major effects being concentrated on debris removal, clearing roadways, repairing infrastructure and refurbishing Towne Hall. Towne Hall lost the roof and has major damage. As soon as the winds died down, the cleanup and repairs began on Sunday evening and continued Monday with limited service. Towne Hall is now open and back in full service to serve our residents and guests. Needless to say, the District has incurred major costs to cleanup and repair or replace vital infrastructure components. For example, when the roof at Towne Hall blew off the interior suffered major damage, including some computer equipment, walls, ceilings, carpet, and damage to the electrical system. The roof over the water plant blew off causing damage to one of the VFD pumps. The roof at the Golf Maintenance shed was also blown off exposing equipment to the damaging winds and flying debris. The Fire Station canopy was ripped off and ended up across the street in the golf course parking lot. I could go on and on, but this is only a small visible portion of the damages created by these three hurricanes. We are collecting all cost associated with Charley, Frances, and Jeanne and have met with FEMA representatives and our insurance providers. Documenting these charges continue as of this date and they are substantial. The District will receive some reimbursement for damages and associated costs, but in what amount we do not know. While we document all loses, some are not eligible for reimbursement under FEMA or insurance guidelines. Even with eligible reimbursements the General Fund and other Enterprise Funds are nearly depleted and clean up and restoration must continue.

As the reconstruction, repairs, and clean up continues we ask your patience and cooperation if things move slowly. All of Florida has experienced damage of some magnitude and contractors and other service providers are overwhelmed. We are working hard and as quickly as we can to return our District back to normal and once again enjoy the peace and tranquility to which we are all accustomed.

District employees have put forth an outstanding effort to return Sun 'n Lake to the best possible condition under these most difficult circumstances and I am proud of every one of them and hope you are too! A simple thank you and a smile means a lot.

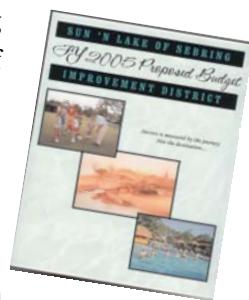
-George Puffenburger

Budget in Brief



On August 27th, 2004, the Board of Supervisors of Sun 'n Lake unanimously approved the budget for FY2005. Copies of the approved budget will be available in Towne Hall within the next few weeks. An exact date has not been confirmed as the printing company providing the service was also a victim of Hurricane Jeanne. Some items of interest to all residents are:

- ◆ No increase in District Maintenance Assessment.
- ◆ No Increase in Water or Sewer Rates.
- ◆ An increase in golf dues. 4th nine assessment is no longer due in February with trail fee charge, but is paid in October with golf dues.



The Board has approved funding for projects including roads, drainage, lift station, upgrades, recreation improvements including golf, tennis, and other community wide programs. This is a "no frills" budget which has a positive impact across the entire district.



Giving Back to the Local Community

One of the local golfers recently shared a story that was rather unique and touching. A gentleman by the name of Dale Davis from Valrico Springs makes frequent trips to Sebring to play golf with his long time friend Neal Winters, a resident of Sun 'n Lake of Sebring. Neal tells of Dale Davis' big heart and passion for helping those in need. He believes this comes in part naturally due to Dale's personal experience with cancer. Dale fell on hard times medically and immediately became a fighter with a great attitude and the desire to come back strong. Following a series of cancer relief treatments, Dale challenged his friends to a tournament he would title "Beat the Crip." Rising to the challenge a group from Sun 'n Lake of Sebring took a bus to Valrico, Florida to challenge the request to compete in this tournament. The tournament has now become an annual event rotating from Valrico one year and Sun 'n Lake the following year. This year the event was scheduled for August 14th at Sun 'n Lake, and it wasn't long before the Valrico group heard of the impact on Highlands County. With the course closed and no power, the group decided to reschedule for the following weekend, but only one thing would be different. The 96 players decided that the prize money and everything that would have been paid out, which totaled more than \$1,700, would be left in the community for individuals recovering from the storm. Neal Winters says that he is not surprised by this act of kindness from his long term friend Dale. He may have taken the trophy home to Valrico, but wherever he goes he leaves a piece of his heart.



Dale Davis and Neal Winters

Welcome Supervisor Charles McHale

Currently the Board of Supervisors officially accepted John Negley's resignation as he is moving to California to accept another position. The vacant position was filled by Charles McHale who is not a new comer to Sun 'n Lake of Sebring. Mr. McHale has lived in Sun 'n Lake for 8 years. Mr. McHale was delighted to receive the nomination and says that he plans to run for the seat in January when it comes open. Mr. McHale retired after 31 years from Surburban Propane with the last 12 years serving as General Manager in the Ft. Myers area in charge of sales and promotions. Mr. McHale and his wife are active in the community and plan to continue their efforts.



HURRICANE Charley Recovery

National Recreational Properties, Inc. came to the rescue after Charley to locate generators outside of the District for procurement. Greg Spiro went to Home Depot stores in Little Rock, Arkansas to purchase over \$23,000 in supplies for the purpose of assisting the District in recovering from Charley. Jeremy Richard and John Goss of National Recreational Properties, Inc. in Hot Springs, Arkansas volunteered to deliver the truckload of items over a 3 day drive through Hurricane Frances. They arrived Sunday 9/6 with several generators, heavy duty chain saws, gas cans and gasoline, fiberglass tarps, bottled water and other items. After dinner at the Candlelight they "gassed up" and headed to North Port Charlotte to assist in recovery there.



Mosquito Control

Due to the past storm events, low lying areas have accumulated and still retain water. Mosquitoes can and will breed in water subject to decaying vegetation producing adults within one week. All residents should remove any standing water on their property. Water that is not easily removed can be treated with a larvicide. Larvicide products come in such forms as "donuts" which float on top of the water and kill the mosquitoes while in the larva stage of development. These products are effective for about 30 days. Controlling mosquitoes while in the larva stage is very effective in controlling proliferation. Larvicides can be purchased at most hardware stores. -Bill Weakley, Director of Public Works



SUN 'N LAKE OF SEBRING IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Towne Hall, 5306 Sun 'n Lake Boulevard

Sebring, Florida 33872

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Food Drive

The Annual Community “ Thanksgiving Food Drive” will start October 30th and run through November 22nd. The Food Boxes are located at the Candlelight Restaurant and Towne Hall. Any non-perishable food items will be accepted and greatly appreciated. The District will donate a ladies and a



man's golf bag that will be raffled off. Tickets for the golf bags can be purchased as a donation of \$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00. All proceeds for the golf bag raffle will go to local charities.

June Bullwinkel and Madeleine Baxley (above) are the ladies who head up the Food Drive and Happy Tree.

Happy Tree 10th Anniversary

During the holiday season the Happy Tree has a reserved place in the Candlelight Restaurant. This year will mark the 10th anniversary of this event. The Happy Tree holds the names of special children in Highlands County who would love to receive a present during the holidays.

Please come and choose a child's name to help make their dream come true. The Happy Tree will be up at the Candlelight Restaurant from November 23rd through December 18th.

Holidays are a special time for giving. Enjoy the season!

