

District Notes & News



Established 1923

August 2008

SUPERVISORS

Thomas H. Powell
President

Tom Rice
Vice-President

David Beane

Robert Berman

Michael Danchuk

STAFF

Gale English
General Manager

Michael Dillon
Operations Superintendent

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

Culvert Replacement at Canal 2 and Jupiter Farms Road Underway

Jupiter Farms Road was closed at Canal 2 on Monday, July 28 in order to replace four culverts and headwalls that had sustained damage during Hurricane Wilma and were beginning to impact stormwater removal efficiency. The two new 11' w x 7' h aluminum arch culverts with an aluminum headwall will be less susceptible to clogging from debris and provide better flow-through, offering flood protection for upstream residents.

Signs were posted at the entrance to Jupiter Farms Road and within the community indicating the road closure and detour routes. The road is scheduled to be closed through Aug. 17. However, the District Engineer and General Manager are working with the contractor, Murray Logan, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Palm Beach County to stage the project so that it proceeds as smoothly and quickly as possible to minimize the road closure time.

Due to the time required to produce and mail this newsletter, it may be possible that the project will be completed by the time you receive it.

Residents may check on the project status by visiting the District's website at www.sirwcd.org, where information is posted.

This project has a short timeline. In late April, the NRCS, the federal agency that has contributed considerable financial assistance for District infrastructure improvements after hurricane damage in 2004 and 2005, advised the District there was additional funding available. The District then requested financial assistance to replace the culverts under Jupiter Farms Road at Canal 2, and the NRCS agreed the hurricane-damaged culverts qualified for assistance.

Plans were then prepared, submitted and approved and a permit had to be

obtained from Palm Beach County. Cost sharing with the County was also negotiated so that the landowners would only be responsible for a small share.

The District received a permit on June 13, however plan and cost approvals to proceed were not received until July 16. A bypass was considered as an alternative to the road closure, however this cost was deemed to be too expensive.

Some residents have asked why the project could not have been done at a later time, as they were concerned with the possibility of a tropical storm or hurricane. However, the NRCS requested that the project be completed prior to September in order to qualify for their 75% share of the project cost. In addition, Palm Beach County had requested that the road be opened prior to the start of school.

The cost savings to District landowners was one of the reasons to proceed with the project, despite its extremely tight time schedule, the time of year, and disruption to residents and businesses. If the project was not done at this time, the culverts would have had to be replaced within a short period of time, which was confirmed at the start of construction, and the entire cost would have been borne by the landowners.

The District and the County have contingency plans in place, in the event of a storm, in order to ensure the safety and well being of residents.

Several detour signs were posted along the main detour routes prior to the start of construction. Residents are using north/south paved roads such as Haynie Lane or Alexander Run, then accessing east/west roadways such as 159th, 169th and Randolph Siding.

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Jupiter Farms Road Closure at Canal 2

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Please obey the speed limits and use care on the roadways during construction. There are many children and equestrians in the area and their safety is paramount.

Truck deliveries to businesses and those unfamiliar with other streets have been following the main detour route of Alexander Run to Sandy Run to Jupiter Farms Road. These roads are paved to county standard and can best handle heavier traffic loads and help minimize turns onto roadways with no outlet. A map of the main detour route was posted on the District's website. Businesses were able to download the map and provide it to their vendors or customers from outside the area or they could refer them directly to the website.

Please contact the District office if you have any questions.



PALM BEACH COUNTRY ESTATES POTABLE WATER PROJECT FINAL PHASE

The final phase of the Palm Beach Country Estates potable water project, 3B will be certified for release shortly by the Palm Beach County Health Department. Residents in this area should watch their mail for information regarding hooking up to the system.

Since our last story on the backflow device issue, the Town of Jupiter has decided to implement the requirement of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding installation of backflow prevention devices when hooking up to public water system and there is also an auxiliary water source on the property (such as a well that is used for irrigation). This requirement may apply to both new and existing hookups.

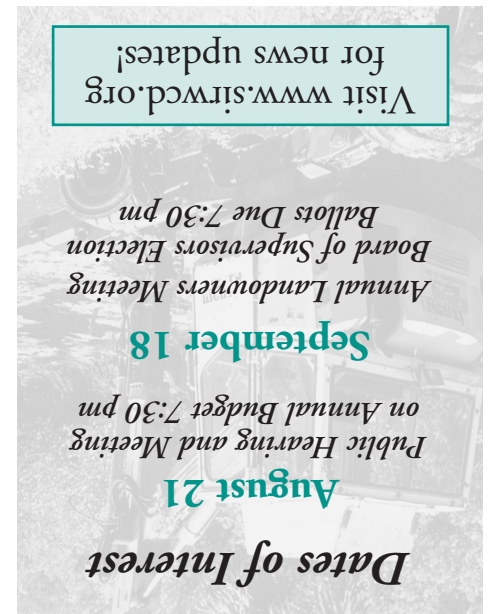
A backflow prevention device is an approved, testable assembly that uses valves to prevent potentially contaminated water from reversing direction and flowing into the public water distribution system. As per discussions with the PBCHD, it is our understanding that a dual check valve backflow preventer, is acceptable.

Any resident wishing to hook up to the system at this time will be subject to installing this device at an estimated cost of \$500.00 or more by a licensed plumber who is a Certified Backflow Prevention Technician. The assembly also must be checked annually by these technicians at a cost of \$50.00 to \$100.00.

It may be in your best interests to wait to hook up, if possible, until the issue is fully resolved with the FDEP sometime this Fall.

The Board of Supervisors remains opposed to this requirement. A meeting was scheduled by the FDEP for August 7 in West Palm Beach, and staff from South Indian River Water Control District attended to express their opposition to the backflow prevention requirement for Palm Beach County Estates.

Information presented here is subject to change due to the time required for production and mailing. Please check the website at www.sirwcd.org for more information and the latest updates on this issue.



Dates of Interest

August 21
Public Hearing and Meeting
on Annual Budget 7:30 pm

September 18
Annual Landowners Meeting
Board of Supervisors Election
Ballots Due 7:30 pm

Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

15600 Jupiter Farms Road
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