

District Notes & News



Established 1923

June 2009

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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 Guidance Office
at 7:30 p.m.*

*Contact the District Office
for an agenda.*



South Indian River Water Control District Fuel Tanks Replaced

South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) recently replaced their existing single-wall underground fuel tanks with new double-wall tanks as mandated by a state law that will go into effect on December 31, 2009.

Florida's Department of Environmental Protection representatives were on hand to inspect and document the new tank installation.

Although the existing fuel tanks were not leaking, the law requires that they be replaced by the end of this year. Single wall steel tanks are prone to corrosion and deterioration, especially when they contain highly caustic liquids such as fuel.

"We wanted to ensure we were in compliance and avoid an end of the year rush by facilities replacing their tanks all at one time," said District Manager Gale English.

It is estimated that there are hundreds of thousands of leaking underground

storage tanks throughout the country that pose a threat to groundwater and public health and safety. Identifying and removing the tanks has been a major initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as many state environmental agencies.

Delta Petroleum, who had the low bid for the contract at \$168,000, has completed the installation of the tanks.



HURRICANE SEASON 2009 IS HERE!

The Time to Prepare is Now!



The hurricane season of 2004-2005 was surely one we'd like to forget, and as time goes on, these events do fade from our memories.

However, we should learn from these natural disasters and take precautions to prepare in advance for these storms.

Since the District is largely rural in nature, maintenance of the landscape should be a priority during hurricane season. You should be trimming and pruning trees and plants at the beginning of the season, not just before a hurricane is ready to strike. Cut overgrown or dead limbs so they won't damage your home. Consider shredded bark or mulch instead of gravel to limit potential damage to your home. For guidelines on yard waste collection, see the following page.

Make sure that any fences or other structures on the property are in good condition and are secure. You should also replace any missing or damaged tiles on your roof to minimize further damage.

Stock up on non-perishable food and water during hurricane season to last at least one week or more. One important thing that was learned during the last hurricanes was that you need to be self sufficient. You should have lanterns, flashlights, fans, and radios that operate on battery power in your home for emergencies. Check your first aid kits, and get some plastic or tarps to cover broken windows or damage to the roof should a storm occur. Bug repellent and coolers are also a good idea. Being prepared ahead of time will minimize long waits for supplies should a storm approach.

Should a hurricane watch or warning be announced, you should undertake additional steps to secure your home and property. Items such as patio furniture, grills, garden decorations, toys, and tools should be brought inside or stored in a sturdy shed that has been secured against high winds. Secure your home with some type of window protection. Stock up on gas for generators, prescription medication, propane for grills, and a supply of cash (after the last storms, many ATMs did not work for many days). Freeze jugs of water (leave off the cap and some room for expansion) or fill zip-lock bags with water and freeze. Larger blocks of ice will last longer and keep food colder than ice cubes or chips. Don't drain your pool or throw patio furniture into it.

Secure your boat and park cars out of low lying areas, near a building and away from trees or in a garage if possible. Garage doors should be secured. Fill your car's gas tank as soon as you can after a warning is issued in case you wish to leave the area or to ensure you'll have gas after the storm (a number of gas stations are supposed to have generators installed, though one of these stations may not be in your area).

DO NOT do any pruning or trimming of trees or plants just prior to a storm. Nor should you put out trash or recyclables, as trash pickup is suspended prior to a storm and these items will become projectiles during high-wind events.

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. The District works with South Florida Water Management District to monitor canal levels prior to and during storm events.

In the 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.

Even with tropical storms, a vast amount of rainfall may occur, overwhelming drainage systems and swales. Inspect your swales for debris and if you are located near a canal and see any blockages, please report these to the District at 747-0550.

For more information, visit www.Storm2009.com for tips and detailed guidance on preparing for storms.

The Florida Division of Forestry Says Don't Invite Wildfire Home!

Though the District has finally received a large amount of rainfall in the last few weeks, this past dry season was the second worst on record.

There were several instances of wildfires this past year resulting in damage to some homes and structures. The Florida Division of Forestry recommends creating "defensible space" around your home. In a recent mailing, they noted that most homes are not actually burned from wildfires, but from low intensity ground fires that burn through vegetation around the home.

They note that burning embers from a wildfire that is far off can land in flammable vegetation near the home or in pine needles and leaves on a roof.

By properly maintaining your landscape and allowing 30 feet of space around your home, you can reduce potential wildfire hazards.

You should remove all dead vegetation within 30 feet of your home, including removing leaves and needles from the roof, and raking them up in your yard. Also, remove "ladder fuel" such as tall shrubs and dead vines that can allow a fire to

climb into the tops of trees. It is recommended to provide vertical and horizontal separation between plants to minimize fire jumping from one tree to another. Prune tree branches to 15 feet away from your roof, chimney, and siding.

Keep flammable vegetation and organic mulches at least 5 feet from your home.

In addition, you should store firewood and any flammables, such as gasoline, away from your home and clear a 15-foot area around propane tanks and barbecue grills.

2008 Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvements

A referendum was held in October for the application of open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) on 20 roadways (totaling approximately 8.6 miles) in Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates. The following roadways passed and are included in the plan of improvements.

- 158th Street N between 133rd Terrace N and East Perimeter Canal
- 152nd Street N between 111th Terrace N and 115th Avenue N
- 187th Place N between 126th Terrace N and 129th Terrace N and 129th Terrace N between 186th Court N and 187th Place N

Rocky Pines Road, from Indiantown Road south to the end, including 172nd Place N, which was approved in an earlier referendum and was delayed due to legislative action that was required, also has been added to this plan of improvements.

The first public hearing on this project was held in February and was amended at the monthly board meeting in April. The final public hearing is scheduled for June 18, just prior to the monthly board meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Jupiter High School.

A separate referendum, the Palm Beach Country Estates Roadway Improvement Project, which would have paved all remaining unimproved roadways in the community to Palm Beach County standards, was defeated earlier this year.



Application of OGEM to voter-approved roadways in Jupiter Farms in 2007

Yard Waste Collection Guidelines

New guidelines for solid waste and recycling were instituted in October 2008 for unincorporated Palm Beach County.

Yard waste will be collected once per week and is limited to 6 cubic yards (equal to the size of three standard refrigerators).

It must be separated from all other household waste. Yard waste includes grass clippings, shrub trimmings, palm fronds and tree limbs. Tree limbs must be cut to six feet or less in length and stacked neatly at the curb, with no single limb weighing more than 50 pounds.

Loose yard waste such as grass and leaves must be bagged or placed in standard 32-50 gallon cans, with each container weighing no more than 50 pounds. Land clearing debris will not be picked up curbside.

Visit www.swa.org for more information on residential waste collection.

Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Financing Program Ending

Though the South Indian River Water Control District's financing program for the potable water hook-up fee is ending this month, residents may still hook up at any time by either paying up front to the Town of Jupiter, or by securing their own financing.

Detailed information on the Palm Beach Country Estates potable water hook up is available on the District's website at www.sirwcd.org.

18th Annual Landowners Family Day



South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) celebrated their 18th annual Landowners Family Day at the District Work Center on Saturday, March 14. Over 650 residents from Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, and Egret Landing enjoyed a barbecue lunch, live music, and displays by local and state community and service organizations.

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

Residents feasted on tasty barbecue chicken, pulled pork, and hot dogs prepared and served by Park Avenue BBQ & Grille of Jupiter Farms. Entertainment was provided by a bluegrass band, The Untold Riches.

For the children, Cock-A-Doodle-Do featured their popular petting zoo and a clown who provided face painting for the kids. The kids also enjoyed guided pony rides.

A number of exhibitors offered visitors information on local and state organizations, governmental agencies, local services, and fire safety and prevention,



and offered free give-aways 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 Connection, Inc., Florida Division of Forestry, the Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Jupiter Farms Citizens Observer Patrol, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, the Jupiter Farms Environmental Council, Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, Equine Rescue and Adoption Foundation, and Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resource Management.

New first time exhibitors included the Loxahatchee River Center, the South Florida Water Management District, Northeast Everglades Trails Association, Florida Fish and Wildlife, and FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

Landowners Family Day 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!



15600 Jupiter Farms Road
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Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

The "green" movement is gaining momentum nationwide in the areas of building, design, and land development.

But what does green have to do with stormwater? Actually quite a lot. Much of the interest in green strategies and practices are in the field of development. Due to EPA-mandated stormwater runoff requirements, municipalities, regional authorities, and states must manage stormwater runoff to mitigate its impact on the environment.

Low Impact Development (LID) is becoming more popular, as well as programs such as the United States Green Building Council's LEED® program. Both encourage the use of infiltration to control and manage runoff, which not only provides reduction of pollutants, but also can help recharge groundwater in areas where drought is a problem.

While the District already uses an infiltration method (swales) to manage stormwater, what can you do as a homeowner to manage stormwater runoff?

We've already suggested methods such as using native plants for landscaping,

using cisterns or rain barrels to capture water for reuse, or using permeable surfaces for driveways, walkways or patios. We've also discussed rain gardens, which are a popular infiltration technology. They can infiltrate about 30% more water into the ground than turfgrass.

So how do you create a rain garden? A brief overview is provided here, however, you should seek detailed guidance from a landscape professional or website such as www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/raingarden_design/construction.htm.

Measure the area the water will be draining from, such as a roof or lawn area surrounding the garden. The size of the garden should be about one-third the size of the area the water is draining from. It should be located at least 10 feet from your home in a flat, low area, preferably in full sun. Excavate a hole about 6" deep (this may need to be adjusted depending on the size of the drainage area) that is level on the bottom with sloping sides. Typically an amended soil is used to fill the hole. The ideal amendment is comprised

of sharp sand, double shredded hardwood mulch, topsoil (weed/seed free) and peat-moss, though other materials may be used.

Downspouts or a shallow trench should be used to channel water from your roof to the garden. Be sure the water drains away from the house in the event of heavy rains.

Low-maintenance, native perennial plants should be used. A local nursery may be able to suggest plants that will work well for our area. Initially plants will need to be watered if it doesn't rain.

Rain gardens offer many benefits. They trap or hold water that will slowly soak into the soil and not run off. This provides water storage for plants on your property, and eventually will recharge groundwater. Also, pollutants such as fertilizer, phosphorous, and nitrogen are filtered out.

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.