

District Notes & News



Established 1923

Summer 2012

SUPERVISORS

Thomas H. Powell
President

Tom Rice
Vice-President

David Beane

Michael Danchuk

Michael Ryan

STAFF

Michael A. Dillon
Manager of Operations

Holly Riggsby
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.*

Landowners Roadway Improvement Projects Ballots Sent Out

The following roadways have submitted petitions and have met the requirements for roadway improvements as verified by the District Engineer. At the April 5 and May 17, 2012 board meetings, the Board of Supervisors authorized the engineer to move forward with identifying the benefitted area and prepare an estimate of probable cost, and directed staff to prepare the referenda for this improvement project.

The following roadways in Palm Beach Country Estates have petitioned for the application of asphalt to Palm Beach County standards:

- 67th Trail N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 73rd Terrace N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 75th Way N between 163rd Court N and 165th Street N
- 77th Trail N between 165th Street N and 167th Court N
- 78th Drive N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 79th Terrace N between 155th Place N and 162nd Court N
- 82nd Terrace N between 150th Court N and 154th Place N

In addition, the following roadways in Jupiter Farms have petitioned for the application of Open-Graded Emulsified Mix (OGEM):

- 90th Trail N between 165th Place N and 166th Way N
- 126th Terrace N between 165th Road N and 169th Court N
- 127th Drive N between 187th Place N and Old Indiantown Grade
- 151st Lane N between 133rd Terrace N and Canal 12
- 175th Road N and Winterhawk Trail between Indiantown Road and 112th Drive N

The estimated annual payment per parcel for the Palm Beach County standard asphalt roads is approximately \$1100 per parcel, while the OGEM roadways is approximately \$780 per parcel for a period of up to 12 years. Landowners may also pay in full up front without financing.

The referenda were sent out to affected landowners on **August 3** and must be received at the District office by **September 5**.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Q.** I wasn't asked to sign a petition for the road. Doesn't everyone on the road have to sign?
A. No. The requirement for petitions is currently set at 35% of the petitioning area.
- Q.** If I don't cast my ballot, does it count as a no vote?
A. As with any election or referendum, **YOU MUST CAST YOUR BALLOT, FOR OR AGAINST, TO HAVE YOUR VOTE COUNT.**
- Q.** Do all the landowners have to cast a ballot for a referendum to pass or fail?
A. No. Like other elections and referenda, the outcome of a District referendum is determined by a **majority of votes actually cast**. So if only 10 landowners out of 20 on a roadway cast a vote and 6 are for it and 4 are against, the referendum will pass.
- Q.** Will the assessment to maintain my dirt road go away if the referendum passes?
A. No. That assessment cost will be used to maintain the improved road in the future when it needs resurfacing. The referendum cost is for construction of the roadways.
- Q.** What if I've lost my ballot or did not receive one?
A. Contact the District office for a replacement ballot. If a duplicate ballot is cast, the first ballot received is counted.

If you have any questions, please call the District Office at 561-747-0550. Do not call the Supervisor of Elections office.

Greta M. Rayman Retires From the District



From left: Mike Ryan, Tom Rice, Greta Rayman, Tom Powell, Mike Danchuk, Chuck Haas and Mike Dillon

Greta Rayman officially retired from South Indian River Water Control District on April 30 after more than 33 years of service as Office Administrator.

She was honored and acknowledged at the District's 21st Annual Landowners Family Day on March 17 by the Board of Supervisors and staff. Mike Dillon, Manager of Operations, presented her with a beautiful engraved vase and a dozen long-stemmed white roses.

At a small luncheon in her honor held at the Abacoa Country Club on April 13, the Board and staff gathered to wish her all the best in her retirement and thank her for her dedicated service to the District.

"Greta has been with the District longer than any of the current Board members and has been an integral part in the success of District office operations and services provided to the landowners," said Board President Tom Powell.

Though Mike Dillon presented Greta with retirement "joke gifts," he noted he was thankful for all her support and assistance when he took over as Manager of Operations last year after the passing of former General Manager Gale English. "She has been an invaluable asset and is a fountain of knowledge regarding the workings of the District over the years," he said.



Greta Rayman

Greta began working for the District on August 2, 1978 at a time when there was virtually no road system, swales provided little stormwater outfall, and canals were overgrown and deteriorated.



Operations Manager Mike Dillon presents Greta Rayman with a dozen beautiful white roses at the 21st Annual Landowners Family Day

A couple of years later, Gale English was hired to reestablish the canal and swale system and began building a staff of operators trained in road construction and stormwater removal infrastructure, and as a result, Greta's office duties grew along with the District.

Greta worked with the General Manager, Board of Supervisors, District Engineer, Attorney, Public Information Officer, and Treasurer on the many projects over the years, as well as her general office management duties.

She assisted Gale English in preparing the detailed information and documentation that was required in order for the District to receive grants from the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 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.



Greta Rayman and Holly Rigsby

"I have very much enjoyed my years working for the District and serving its landowners," Greta said. "I'll miss seeing the office personnel and operators every day, and interacting with the Board and staff."

Holly Rigsby, who has worked at the District since October of 2008, has been named Office Administrator.

"We will miss seeing Greta on a daily basis, but know she'll stop by for a visit from time to time," said Mike Dillon. "We wish her all the best for a happy and healthy retirement."

Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Hookup Agreement Extended with Town of Jupiter

The South Indian River Water Control District entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Jupiter to provide water service to Palm Beach Country Estates on June 21, 2005, and at the time, had negotiated a reduced hookup rate for landowners who wished to connect to the system.

This reduced rate was set to expire in seven years, at the end of June 2012.

District Treasurer Chuck Haas met with David Brown of the Town of Jupiter Water Utilities Department at the request of the Board of Supervisors. The Town was willing to not only extend the reduced hookup rate for Palm Beach Country Estates landowners, but also offer financing for the hookup fee.

The District had previously established a hookup financing program for landowners, but this offer expired in June 2009.

The continuation of the agreement is an amendment to the original Interlocal Agreement between the Town and the District, where they will continue to

provide financing incentives to Palm Beach Country Estates residents to hook up to the system. The agreement will continue for a period of three years, with the option to renew for another three years. The District will continue to include future connection fees as a non-ad valorem assessment on those landowners' property taxes.

The new hookup fees are only slightly higher than the original fee agreement negotiated by the District seven years ago.

For 3/4 in. meter service, the fee is \$3,911.28, and for 1 in. meter service it is \$9,387.05. This is substantially less than Jupiter's current schedule of fees, which are over \$5,000 for 3/4 in. service and \$12,000 for 1 in. service for connections west of I-95.

Palm Beach Country Estates residents may still pay this reduced hookup fee up front if they wish or may finance the hookup fee through the Town of Jupiter.

The Town is offering a 20-year term at 5.5% for an annual assessment of

approximately \$328.00 for 3/4 in. meter service or \$786.00 for 1 in. meter service. A deposit and application fee is required and cannot be financed.

The amendment to the Interlocal Agreement was prepared by the District Attorney, William Capko and was approved by the Board of Supervisors and the Town of Jupiter.

"If this agreement had expired, our landowners who wished to connect in the future would have had to pay the current Jupiter water connection fees, so this represents a savings of over 20%," said Board of Supervisors' President Tom Powell. "In addition, the financing program offers residents an option to pay over time."

A complete package, including application forms, sample fee statements, and Declaration of Restrictive Covenant is available on the District's website at www.sirwcd.org. If you have any questions, call Jupiter's Water Utility Dept. at 561-741-2300 - Press 0.



Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

The Board of Supervisors and District staff continue to monitor the implementation of water quality rules in Florida. Originally, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had proposed numeric limits for nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen for Florida waters, including man-made canals, which were to be implemented in Aug. 2012.

In early November 2011, due to the concerns expressed by the state, municipalities, and special districts that the cost to implement the standards would be prohibitive, the EPA notified Florida that the agency would let the state develop its own anti-pollution rules. The Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection developed an alternative methodology that has wide consensus, however, the Florida Wildlife Federation, St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, the Sierra Club, and the Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida have challenged the state's proposed rules.

On May 31, U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle granted the EPA a nearly six-month extension on a deadline to establish the

new federal water pollution limits in Florida. The EPA had faced a deadline of June 4 for signing a proposed federal rule for streams other than those in South Florida. With the extension, Judge Hinkle agreed in an order to set a Nov. 30 deadline for those streams and a July 20 deadline for South Florida streams.

The EPA had requested the extension after Judge Hinkle's February ruling, which threw out the pollution limits that some Florida officials and industry groups objected to as too expensive to implement.

NPDES TIP: With ample rain now falling in the District, turn off your irrigation systems, or reduce the amount of water you use for your landscape to help conserve water and reduce runoff.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

If landowners witness anyone dumping materials into the District swales or canal system, or Palm Beach County catch basins, please report this to the District Office at 747-0550.

Hinkle and Rice Seek Board of Supervisors Seats This Year

Ballots for this year's two Board of Supervisor's positions will be mailed out to all landowners in August.

This year, Tom Rice, who currently serves as vice-president, is running for reelection and Stephen Hinkle of Jupiter Farms is running for the second time. David Beane, who has been a board member for 24 years, is not running for reelection. For biographies on each candidate, please visit our website.

According to the District's Special Act, at least one candidate in this year's election must reside west of the C-18 Canal – Mr. Hinkle is a Jupiter Farms resident, so he meets this requirement. Please note that you must cast a vote for a resident west of the C-18 Canal, or your vote will be invalid.

Even though there are only two candidates for the two seats, we encourage you to please send in your ballot. Election ballots must be received at the District office no later than Sept. 20, or you may cast your ballot in person just prior to the start of the Annual Landowner's Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Jupiter High School on Sept. 20.



15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478

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Due September 5**

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Landowner Survey

Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

21st Annual Landowners Family Day



Record Turnout On Family Day!

Over 900 people came out to spend the day with their neighbors and families on March 17. Everyone enjoyed the free barbecue, Tom Jackson Band, and exhibits by community organizations, as well as face painting, a bounce house, pony rides and petting zoo for the kids!

