



A Newsletter dedicated to educating and informing the Spring Lake Neighborhood

The Spring Lake Connection

July 2016

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, summer has definitely started, as evidenced by the soaring temperatures and daily thunderstorms. I want to remind everyone to drink plenty of water when spending time outdoors. Also keep in mind that alcoholic beverages and caffeinated drinks not only do not replenish water lost through perspiration, they actually serve to dehydrate one even more. So have fun, but do so in a safe and healthy way.

This newsletter is in the formative stages and we would like to hear from you as to what topics you would like to see covered. So feel free to send your suggestions and feedback to Greg Anderson with Ameritech at GAnderson@AmeritechMail.com or call 727-726-8000. In the meantime, we will be including general news and rotating various other features.

FENCE CONSTRUCTION

Fence construction is continuing. The contractor has finished the Virginia Avenue exterior fence and part of the section along Keene Road. They are currently waiting for more posts to come in from their supplier and expect to resume construction around the middle of July. In the meantime, they have been working on the new fence around the recreational area and have nearly completed it.

SEA WALL CONSTRUCTION

The sea wall construction has also begun. The water level of the north lake has been lowered about 5 or 6 feet and dirt is now being hauled in. If you use the Virginia Avenue entrance, you have no doubt had to navigate around the piles of dirt blocking one lane of

Springrain near Springbush Lane. Please use caution when driving through this area as the dirt piles obstruct visibility and construction equipment is continually operating in the area.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence Day is upon us. Celebrations including invited guests, fireworks, backyard barbeques and outdoor games are common. Please be courteous with your activities. Direct guests to park in such a way as to not block the streets or neighboring driveways. It is also a good idea to wrap up your fireworks by 10:00 PM. If you would prefer to do something away from home, check out VisitStPeteClearwater.com for activity suggestions.

RESERVING THE CLUBHOUSE

Need a venue for your small summer gathering? Remember that the clubhouse is available to residents free of charge. The facility can be reserved on a first-come-first-served basis. A \$50 deposit is required which is returned after the key has been returned and the facility has been verified to have been left in good condition. Contact Ameritech to reserve the building for your event.

BOARD MEETING HIATUS

The board will not hold regular monthly meetings during the months of July and August. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday September 21st at the clubhouse. Hope to see you there. If you have an issue that you feel needs immediate attention, contact Ameritech, our property management contractor.

Visit the neighborhood website for more information: www.SpringLakeHOA.org.

HOUSEKEEPING

From time to time, residents show up at a board meeting, having received a violation warning notice, saying that they had no idea of a particular rule. This section of the newsletter is included to educate and remind residents of subdivision guidelines. Each month, some aspect of the regulations will be covered.

This month, the subject is architectural guidelines. The subdivision's architectural guidelines are in place to promote and maintain a consistent and harmonious exterior design throughout the subdivision. The complete guidelines are too extensive to be included here but are posted on the association's website.

Residents are required to get approval of most exterior changes to their property. These include exterior painting, significant landscaping changes and placement of lawn ornaments and other lawn embellishments. Before you make any significant changes to the exterior of your property, it is advised that you review the guidelines and submit a plan to the Architectural Review Committee. The form that needs to be submitted can be downloaded from the association website. It is also available from a dispenser near the front door of the clubhouse.

LANDSCAPING TIPS

Mosquitoes have been a problem in the neighborhood for some time. Here are some helpful suggestions when planting to help keep the mosquito population at a minimum. The following plants all repel mosquitoes as well as add wonderful scents to your garden:

Citronella Grass and Citronella Geraniums. Both have a scent of lemon and are drought resistant.

Rosemary. An herb that grows well in Florida and has a nice woody scent.

Catmint. Thrives most anywhere and is ten times more effective than DEET.

Basil. Another herb with a pungent smell that keeps pests at bay.

Lavender. Very tough and drought resistant once established. Some say that lavender oil hinders a mosquito's ability to smell.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Watermelon & Feta Orzo Salad

Ingredients:

1 cup orzo pasta

½ cup Lemon-Shallot Vinaigrette

3 cups seeded and diced watermelon

4 cups firmly packed watercress or baby arugula

4 ounces crumbled feta cheese.

Directions:

Prepare pasta, toss together hot pasta and Lemon-Shallot Vinaigrette in large bowl. Cover and chill 3-24 hours. Gently toss together watermelon, watercress, feta cheese and pasta mixture; add salt and pepper to taste. *ENJOY!*

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

If you have a skill that can help contribute to the operation and betterment of the neighborhood or would simply like to help make Spring Lake a better place to live, please do not hesitate to contact the board and let them know of your willingness to pitch in. There are many basic association functions where assistance is needed and many activities that could be added which would enrich the community if the manpower were available.

In particular, writers are needed to assist with the monthly newsletter. Also, a welcoming committee is being formed and is in need of volunteers.

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