



# Water Matters

Ranger Drainage District Newsletter, Florida Statutes Chapter 298 – Orlando, Fla.

Winter 2008



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The mission of the Ranger Drainage District is to implement the provisions of Chapter 298 Florida Statutes, in a manner that ensures proper storm water management within the boundaries of the district and to operate with a continued commitment to education and outreach to its residents and landowners.



Welcome  
from Ruth Moore, President

I hope the New Year is off to a great start for each and every one of you. You probably have big plans for the coming year and so too does Ranger Drainage District. As we head into 2008, we remain dedicated to moving water through our community in ways that enhance our collective and individual quality of life.

In this issue of Water Matters, you'll find a detailed description of the proposed bond which lies at the forefront of this year's initiative to improve storm water management. We've spent more than a year researching cost-effective solutions to problems facing the district today, and have determined that a bond should fund the six capital projects. These projects, which include drainage pipe replacement and canal restoration, are vital to our community and we encourage you to join us in the process of approving this important bond.

We will be scheduling a Public Hearing to discuss the proposed bond in the next few months – please plan to attend and contribute as this initiative affects everyone in the District.

I invite you to visit our web site, [www.rangerdrainagedistrict.com](http://www.rangerdrainagedistrict.com), to find up-to-date information, permit requirements and downloadable applications.

Please write, email or visit the RDD office anytime to meet our dedicated staff, ask us questions and share your suggestions and feedback. We strive to make a difference for you and your opinion always matters. I hope to see you at our next Board Meeting and at the upcoming Public Hearing on the proposed bond.

*Ruth Moore*

Ruth Moore, President  
Ranger Drainage District  
Board of Supervisors  
[board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com](mailto:board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com)

# Your Opinion Counts!

Landowners within the District have recently brought two items before the Board of Supervisors for consideration. Before taking any further action, we would like input from the other landowners in the District.

## Item Number One:

To properly support the important decisions and responsibilities made by the RDD Board of Supervisors, some landowners believe the Board should be increased from three members to five members. The initial cost would be approximately \$30,000 to cover attorney's fees, advertising notices, administrative fees and filings with Orange County and the State of Florida.

## Item Number Two:

Some landowners have requested that a benefit study be conducted to determine if current maintenance fees are properly allocated. The initial cost would be approximately \$15,000 to cover the third party evaluation.

Please take a moment to provide your feedback on these items by clicking the News & Events tab on our web site, [www.RangerDrainageDistrict.com](http://www.RangerDrainageDistrict.com). We will be reviewing the feedback received before proceeding with any action.

If you have any questions regarding the Board and its role, please contact any of our current Board or staff members:

Ruth Moore, President  
[board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com](mailto:board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com)

Donald Leavitt, Secretary  
[board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com](mailto:board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com)

Gus Desaultels, Supervisor  
[board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com](mailto:board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com)

Cecil Davis, General Manager  
[cecild\\_rdd298@bellsouth.net](mailto:cecild_rdd298@bellsouth.net)

Dawn Mullins, Office Manager  
[dawnm\\_rdd298@bellsouth.net](mailto:dawnm_rdd298@bellsouth.net)

Wanda Tucker, Receptionist  
[wandat\\_rdd298@bellsouth.net](mailto:wandat_rdd298@bellsouth.net)

# Proposed Bond Within The District

The District's Board of Supervisors has spent much of the past year searching for the best solution to fund our capital improvement projects. These projects include those required by state law and those necessary to relieve and prevent flooding within the Wedgefield community. The preliminary cost estimate for the most critical projects is approximately \$9.5 million, which would be paid for by the property owners in the District. Taking the life expectancy of the improvements and the associated costs into account, it was determined that the issuance of bonds for funding would be in the best interest of the property owners.



A brief description of the capital improvement projects are listed below for your information. The District will be holding a Public Hearing in the next few months to review the proposed bond issue. Please watch your mail for the notice and plan to attend.

## Capital Project 1 - Abalone Boulevard

Drainage improvements: New concrete pipe will replace the existing deteriorated steel pipe along the west side of Abalone Boulevard, beginning just north of Natchez Street and heading south to Nettleton Canal. The west side line will also extend to Yam Street. The total amount of concrete pipe to be installed is 3,290 feet.

## Capital Project 2 - Melville Street

Drainage improvements: New concrete pipe will replace the existing deteriorated steel pipe along the north side of Melville Street from Abney Avenue to Alabaster Avenue. The total amount of concrete pipe to be installed is 1,170 feet.

## Capital Project 3 - Ascot Avenue, Marlin Street and Bagdad Avenue

Drainage improvements: New concrete pipe will replace the existing deteriorated steel pipe in the area of Ascot Avenue, Marlin Street and Bagdad Avenue. The total amount of concrete pipe to be installed is 1,800 feet.

## Capital Project 4 - Canals 6 and 3

The District's Operating Permit Conditions require the District to make certain improvements to a drainage basin once it reaches 40% density. A study of two basins within the District is currently underway, and once it is complete, improvements to Canal 6, which is 3.7 miles long, and Canal 3, which is 3 miles long, will be required. These improvements include removing trees from the canal banks, resloping the banks and cleaning the bottom of the canal to restore its original design.



canal to restore its original design.

## Capital Project 5 - New Ponds Adjacent to Canal 6

Drainage improvements: Additional ponds will be constructed adjacent to Canal 6 to allow storm water to settle before progressing through the main canal.

## Capital Project 6 - Riser Barrel Replacement

Drainage improvements: Currently, RDD maintains 105 major control structures at 31 locations throughout the District. The pipes at these locations control the flow of storm water throughout the District and a total of 91 pipes in 23 locations will be replaced due to deterioration.

# IN THE NEWS:

## Easements & Swales

Roadside swales are an essential part of the drainage system as they help filter the pollution from the water before it enters the drainage system. Remember, all of our drainage eventually enters the Econ River.

If you live in an area where there are swales and no curbs, the swales must be kept clear. You may not plant trees, shrubs or flowers within the road right away / swale area. If you do, and the drainage is impaired, or the District must do work in the swale area, RDD will remove the plant material and will not replace it.

Expect your swales to hold water. Roadside swales and easements are specifically designed to perform this function and will contain water except during the dry season when precipitation is extremely low.



Driving through the swale area to access your property is prohibited. This activity will alter the swale area and impede the flow of drainage. We ask that you use your existing driveway to access your property or stop by the District office to apply for an additional driveway culvert, if needed.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and compliance and are available to answer any questions you may have.

## RDD Receives FEMA Grant

Following Hurricane Charlie in 2005, Cecil Davis along with the District engineer, IBI Group, applied for an \$800,000 grant from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), to improve the drainage in areas prone to flooding including Bagdad Avenue, Baker Avenue, Ballard Avenue, Bancroft Boulevard, Marlin Street and the west end of Maxim Parkway. We are happy to report, that in December 2007, the District received the contract for the first phase of the grant money, which includes engineering, surveying and permitting.



## Meet Your Neighbor: The Sandhill Crane

Found throughout the Ranger Drainage District and possibly in your own backyard, the Sandhill Crane is the most abundant of the world's cranes. Beyond its masking pattern and unique coloration, here are a few interesting facts and features about your friendly avian neighbor:



- Sandhill Cranes are primarily birds of open fresh water wetlands.
- The smallest Sandhill Crane weighs an average of 6-7 pounds and stands approximately 3-3.5 feet tall. The largest of this sub-species weighs 10-14 pounds and stands 4.5-5 feet tall.
- Cranes love to dance and their style includes a wide variety of interesting behaviors such as bowing, jumping, running, stick or grass tossing and plenty of wing flapping.
- All cranes are omnivorous. Sandhill Cranes are generalists and feed on a wide variety of plant tubers, grains, small vertebrates like mice and snakes, and invertebrates such as insects or worms.
- Female Sandhill Cranes usually lay two eggs with a 29-to-32-day incubation period. Keep a lookout for fledglings who soar from the nest about 67 to 75 days after they're born.



## Upcoming Events:

The monthly meetings to review District business are held at the Ranger Drainage District office. The updated calendar, meeting agendas and minutes may be found online at [www.rangerdrainagedistrict.com](http://www.rangerdrainagedistrict.com). We encourage all land/homeowners to attend as we continue to discuss different issues relating to the District. Mark your calendar for the following dates:

- March 12, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.
- April 9, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.
- May 14, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.

\*Please note that the Board meeting dates and times are subject to change.

## Questions?

A three-member staff, in addition to the Field Operations Team, is responsible for daily operation of the District. Cecil Davis, RDD's General Manager encourages land/homeowners to contact him directly with any questions regarding the District, how it operates and its ongoing role. He may be reached by e-mail at [cecild\\_rdd298@bellsouth.net](mailto:cecild_rdd298@bellsouth.net) or by calling the District office. Any questions regarding permits please contact Dawn Mullins at [dawnm\\_rdd298@bellsouth.net](mailto:dawnm_rdd298@bellsouth.net) or Wanda Tucker at [wandat\\_rdd298@bellsouth.net](mailto:wandat_rdd298@bellsouth.net).

The District office is located at 19950 Nugent Street, just south of Nettleton Street and off of Bancroft Boulevard. Our office hours are Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. The District office phone number is 407-568-5502.



Ranger Drainage District  
19950 Nugent Street  
Orlando, FL 32833

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