

## April, 2013 Coconut Telegraph

**Zoning:** More than three years ago, a volunteer study group on LGI, with members from the LGPOA, drafted a proposed zoning ordinance for LGI that would rezone LGI entirely Single Family Residential. The LGI Advisory Committee recommended that the County Commission adopt this proposed ordinance. The county Planning and Zoning staff now has revised the proposed ordinance to apply to all of the county's bridgeless barrier islands, and the proposed ordinance is titled "Bridgeless Barrier Island Zoning District". The proposed provisions that would apply only to LGI are now contained in a separate proposed "LGI Zoning Overlay" ordinance.

Both ordinances, that together comprise the proposed zoning for LGI are now scheduled for review and adoption. **On May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1PM, at Cedar Point Park on Placida Road, the LGI Advisory Committee will review and adopt recommendations on the elements of the proposed ordinances that differ from the Advisory Committee's original recommendation.** The proposed ordinances will be considered by the Charlotte County Planning and Zoning Board on Monday May 13, at 1:30PM at the Murdock Administration Center, room 119. The proposed ordinances will then be considered by the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners at two meetings. The first will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 9AM in the County Commission chambers in Murdock. The second will be held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9AM in the County Commission chambers.

The exact language of both ordinances can be found on the Charlotte County website at: [charlottecountyfl.com/GrowthManagement/PlanningZoning/BarrierIsland.asp](http://charlottecountyfl.com/GrowthManagement/PlanningZoning/BarrierIsland.asp).

Plan to attend the Advisory Committee meeting if you have questions or comments on the ordinances. If you cannot attend the meeting, please email your questions or comments to members of the Advisory Committee listed below.

**Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue** held two Board of Directors meetings in April to discuss its proposed 2014 budget, which was to be submitted to Charlotte County by mid-April. LGIFR's Finance Committee reported that, despite cuts in six different areas made by Chief Engmark, operating expenses will exceed revenue for 2014. Therefore the committee and Chief Engmark recommended an increase in the assessment charged to LGI property owners for fire and rescue services (by Florida law, EMS services cannot be funded by assessments and must depend on contributions).

Because the Board expected that this proposed 5% increase (\$17.50 per dwelling and \$6.50 per vacant lot) would be controversial, it held two meetings and a workshop this month to explain why the increase in revenue was needed. Chief Engmark pointed out that a grant that has paid part of his salary ends this year, and that inflation has increased other operating costs since the original budget was designed in 2010. He emphasized that this proposed increase was not for any kind

of expansion or new equipment. It was necessary simply to pay ordinary operating expenses (salaries, maintenance, rent, utilities, etc.).

Several islanders spoke at the meetings and suggested alternatives to the increase, such as soliciting monetary donations or volunteer services where possible. At the April 17 Board meeting, two islanders agreed to personally guarantee contributions of \$15,000 as a substitute for the proposed assessment increase. The Board voted to incorporate these guaranteed contributions into the 2014 budget in place of the proposed assessment increase. Board members pointed out that this same amount will be necessary for operating expenses in 2015 and beyond. See LGIFR's website ([lgifr.com](http://lgifr.com)) for budgets and further information.

**Docks:** The Dock Committee reports that there have been no new developments in its negotiations with the DEP about LGI's docks.

**Chapel Services:** Sunday Chapel services will continue at 10:30AM at the LGI Chapel. The services are non-denominational and all are welcome.

**Sea Turtle Nesting Season** begins May 1 and runs through October 31. Help protect our sea turtles by shielding or turning off lights that are visible from the beach and removing chairs, etc. from the beach at night.

#### **LGI Advisory Committee Members 2013**

Bob Hill: [bobhill@ewol.com](mailto:bobhill@ewol.com)

Paul Holmes: [pbholmes0@gmail.com](mailto:pbholmes0@gmail.com)

Dan Butler: [dbutler863@netzero.net](mailto:dbutler863@netzero.net)

Tom Braakman: [tjbraak@gmail.com](mailto:tjbraak@gmail.com)

Ed Vetter: [ibatpcs@gate.net](mailto:ibatpcs@gate.net)

Barry Hurt: [bhurt@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bhurt@tampabay.rr.com)

Frank Burger: [bfaburger@gmail.com](mailto:bfaburger@gmail.com)

#### **LGPOA Board members:**

David Haynes, President, representing District 3: [david@tarponrealty.com](mailto:david@tarponrealty.com)

Tom McCoy, Vice President, representing District 8: [thomas.mccoy@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:thomas.mccoy@vanderbilt.edu)

Paul Holmes, Treasurer, representing District 7: [pbholmes0@gmail.com](mailto:pbholmes0@gmail.com)

Phyllis NeSmith, representing District 1: [phlstory@slbb.net](mailto:phlstory@slbb.net)

Walter Woolf, representing District 2: [ffstampa@aol.com](mailto:ffstampa@aol.com)

Anita Burger, representing District 6: [bfaburger@gmail.com](mailto:bfaburger@gmail.com)

David Vincent, representing District 5: [jdvincent@bell.net](mailto:jdvincent@bell.net)