

## August, 2014 Coconut Telegraph

**The Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association will meet on Saturday, August 16 at 10AM at the Placida Beach Clubhouse.** Come to hear more about docks, the fishing tournament, the water issue and other issues affecting LGI

The **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Day Weekend Fishing Tournament** will be held on Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. All events will be held at the Hideaway Bay Beach Club. Here is a schedule of events:

Kid's Fishing Clinic / Outdoor Marine Class: Saturday, August 30, 2014, 2:00 P.M.  
(Southside on the Bay)

Registration: August 30, 2014, 4:00- 6:00 P.M. at the BBQ area

Captain's Meeting: Saturday, August 30, 2014, 6:00 P.M. at the BBQ area

Tournament: Sunday, August 31, 2014 - 7:00 A.M.

Weigh-in: Sunday, August 31, 2014 - 2:00 P.M. (inshore), 3:00 P.M (Offshore)

Awards Ceremony/Pot Luck Dinner to follow weigh in, around 6:00 P.M.

For more detailed information, see our website: [www.lgpoa.org](http://www.lgpoa.org).

**Docks:** Single-family dock owners who have applied to DEP for their Letter of Consent under the Dock Bill report that the process is extremely easy. All have received their LOC within a few days of contacting Mark Miller at DEP by phone or email (see LGPOA website for Miller's contact info). Users of multi-family or community docks are reminded that they must form an incorporated association in order to apply to DEP for the necessary submerged lands lease. LGPOA has gotten requests for names of lawyers who will help incorporate and draw up by-laws for the associations. Call David Haynes at 697-9797 for names of lawyers familiar with the island. Any attorney incorporating an association can request from Tom McCoy ([thomas.mccoy@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:thomas.mccoy@vanderbilt.edu)) a copy of the model association by-laws that the Dock Committee has drafted to meet the Dock Bill's requirements.

**Garbage:** The Telegraph has received reports of bags of bagged household garbage being dumped on empty lots and even in front of homes on the island. This is, of course, not acceptable to the home and lot owners of LGI. Please help keep our island beautiful and be sure your renters and guests know where to dispose of their garbage properly.

**Little Gasparilla Fire and Rescue** has a new EMS vehicle, purchased with the generous donations of islanders and guests. The Board of Directors has been holding Strategic Planning meetings to assess LGIFR's long-term needs and to plan for financing those needs. At its July meeting, the Board established a Building Planning group to begin the process of designing a fire station on LGIFR's lot located just north of the Hideaway condos. The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10AM at the firehouse, 9540 Jolly Roger Trail.

**Little Gasparilla Water Utility:** The Florida Public Service Commission held a Public Hearing on July 16 to gather input about Jack Boyer's LGWU proposed rates. Many islanders spoke, all protesting the enormous rate increase that the PSC staff recommended. The PSC will vote on the rate increase at its October meeting. Final staff

recommendation for the rate increase is due on September 22. If you would like to comment on the proposed rate increase, the connection with Charlotte County, or the expansion of water lines on LGI, you can email the Public Service Commission at: [contact@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us). Refer to Docket #130-265.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing about an amendment to its ordinance restating its requirement for mandatory hook up to a private water utility such as LGWU. Many islanders spoke at this meeting requesting to be exempted from this requirement, and offered a model amendment exempting LGI homes. The Commissioners voted to table the ordinance until more information could be obtained.

**Sea Turtle** nesting season continues until November 1<sup>st</sup>. LGI's Turtle Permit holder (and LGPOA's Environmental Committee chair) Linda Soderquist reports that we have 145 sea turtle nests so far this year, the most in over 13 years. Remember to remove your beach furniture and turn off outside lights so nesting turtles and hatchlings will not be distracted or trapped.

The **LGI Chapel** continues to hold Sunday services at 9:30AM. Services are non-denominational, dress is casual, and all are welcome.