



Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association  
PO Box 3643  
Placida, FL 33946

February 2016, Coconut Telegraph

Important Information in this issue you won't want to miss!

- \*\* LGI Sea Turtle Patrol needs your help this summer!
- \*\* Information from FPL on power outages
- \*\* Get the Inside Straight on the LGPOA Island Neighbor Picnic and Poker Run held January 2nd, 2016.
- \*\* Next LGIFR meeting Saturday, February 6th at 10am.
- \*\* LGPOA free membership continues...membership status and how to enroll.
- \*\* Check out the new "Upcoming Holidays" section!

Police presence

As preparation for New Year's Eve drew near, islanders and visiting guests were reassured by the visual presence of an additional police officer hired by the LGPOA to help ring in a safe new year. Mission accomplished!

On Wednesday December 30th from 4-10pm and Thursday December 31st from 6pm – 1:30am a police officer cruised the island cart paths and was readily available in the event of an emergency. Plans for additional police protection over spring break are underway to ensure another safe and pleasant island experience for everyone!

Special thanks to Hideaway Bay Beach Condos for assisting with the transportation and parking. Also thank you to the LGPOA board members who arrange the coverage, give their time and energy to transport, secure golf carts and provide individual orientations of "island customs" to each new officer who serves.

Florida Power and Light

Due to recent extended power outages on the island the LGPOA board reached out to FPL to discuss ways in which homeowners on LGI might help to prevent power losses. Below is an outline of what we learned:

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It is the shared responsibility of homeowner's and FPL to work together to minimize power outages.

#### FPL Tree Facts:

- FPL operates more than 45,000 miles of overhead power lines surrounded by approximately seven million trees.
- Trees are among the most common causes of power outages and flickers.
- Each year FPL trims trees along thousands of miles of power lines throughout the state.
- FPL's preventive maintenance plan calls for clearing main power lines every three years and neighborhood lines every six years, on average.
- The Arbor Day Foundation has recognized FPL as a Tree Line USA utility for twelve consecutive years.

Because we care about the health of trees, FPL follows the International Society of Arboriculture and American National Standard Institute pruning guidelines.

#### As islanders we can:

1. Plant new trees/bushes on your property that won't cause future problems. You can access information from the FPL website regarding the "Right tree, right place" program. Go to [FPL.com/trees](http://FPL.com/trees) and register your account or sign in. This site gives information on mature sizes of different tree types and recommended setbacks.
2. Call to report an existing tree or bush that causes problems. The phone number is 1-800-468-8243. It can also be found on your FPL bill. Please consider the information below from the Florida Light and Power website:

You should be aware that reporting a tree that needs trimming does not mean that the tree in your specific area will be trimmed immediately. However, the information you provide may be used for planning in the future when the entire length of the affected line is selected for maintenance.

#### Please note the following regarding there tree trimming maintenance program:

- The amount of pruning varies depending on: tree species, growth rates, tree health, and the relative location to the power lines and the type of facility involved before pruning.
- FPL utilizes a technique encouraged by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the International Society of Arboriculture called "directional pruning" which does not interfere with the tree's ability to seal wounds, allowing the tree's natural defense system to discourage pests and decay.
- FPL will not shape your tree. The crews are directed to prune for clearance around FPL facilities only. They will attempt to directionally prune branches to redirect future growth away from power lines.
- If it is determined that pruning can not satisfactorily meet the needs of maintaining the facilities, removing the tree is recommended. Any trimmings or debris left behind as a result of our work will be picked up before the end of the next day. If you continue to have debris in your area after this period of time, please report this as soon as possible.

You should not attempt to prune any vegetation growing near or on any overhead power line. Only specially-trained line clearing professionals should work around power lines. For more information

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about working with qualified tree professionals and to view a list of independent tree care contractors in your area, visit "Tree Trimming Contractors".

If there is a break in power you can call 1-800-468-8243 or report the outage on the FPL website. You can also get updates on the website or via text. They'll even tell you when power is restored, which can be helpful if you are away from the island.

So, what can we do to minimize outages? Plant new trees responsibly and report existing hazardous trees!

## Sailboat

The sailboat situation hasn't changed. At a hearing on January 25th a sentencing/plea was scheduled for March 24th. The lieutenant involved said he is contacting the owners to ask them to remove what remains. The LGPOA is investigating what actions can be taken if the owners refuse.

## Social Committee

From Social Committee Member, Stacy Supanich-Magoon

## ISLAND NEIGHBOR PICNIC and POKER RUN!

"Here's the Inside Straight on the January 2nd Poker Run

It looked like the odds were stacked against us for poor weather and a poor turn out, but all bets were off when islanders rallied in the mist for a round of poker fun and a potluck picnic!

Twenty-eight or so participants were formed in groups of four and sent off in their golf carts to five locations around the island to collect their hands for the round. Meanwhile, "Hey Ray" Stonebridge and his merry men of grillers helped cook burgers and dogs, while many other volunteers came by with potluck dishes and great conversation until our Poker Runners returned with their hands. And just to make it a bit more interesting, participants were given an option to change a card if they sang a chorus to a song of their choosing. Let me just say, we did not have a shy group in the house! A personal favorite was "You Got to Know When to Fold Them." We have some very clever and funny islanders.

The results were tallied and prizes were given to the top three hands. The winners were a pair of Quereau's. Alannah Quereau came in third and older sister, Raya won second place. Former septic company owner, Leigh Olson, won first place with a Flush! You can't make this ..... up! We are not bluffing.

A special thank you to Chris Stonebridge and Rhonda Olson for coming up with the idea and for organizing the event. Other special thanks go to the LGPOA Board of Directors for volunteering to deal out the cards throughout the island and to "Hey Ray" Stonebridge and his merry grillers for setting up and grilling."

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Environmental Committee

From Environmental Chair, Linda Soderquist:

\*\*\*LGI Sea Turtle Patrol is looking for help in collecting data on our sea turtle nesting! If you are able to walk the beach early in the day, will be around full time or part time during the summer (May through October) and would like to help, please contact Linda Soderquist at [linist@hotmail.com](mailto:linist@hotmail.com). For information on our sea turtles, please visit our Facebook page: Little Gasparilla Island Turtles and Shorebirds.

#### Seagrass Beds

Our seagrass beds are important!

Seagrasses are flowering plants found in shallow coastal marine waters, and are significantly different than algae. There are seven species of seagrasses in Florida waters, and all depend up on light to grow and stay healthy. Therefore, they tend to grow in shallow water, but can be found deeper if the water clarity is good.

Seagrasses are very important. They provide food and habitat to many marine animals and stabilize the sea floor. Some marine animals, such as the endangered Florida manatee and green sea turtle, feed directly on seagrasses. Many smaller organisms forage for food within seagrass beds: crabs, fish, skates, and rays. The importance of seagrasses as food, shelter, and essential nursery habitats for commercial and recreational fishery species and for the many other organisms that live and feed in seagrass beds is well known.

A single acre of seagrass can produce over 10 tons of leaves per year and can support as many as 40 thousand fish and 50 million invertebrates. Many view seagrass communities as the marine equivalent of tropical rainforests.

The beds are affected by wave energy, floods, droughts, pollution runoff and boat traffic. Docks and boats can shade seagrass beds, causing them to die from lack of sunlight.

Here's how you can help our seagrass beds stay healthy:

1. Avoid boat navigation through shallow grass beds. Have you seen what motors can do to the beds?
2. Be mindful and avoid contributing to fertilizer and pesticide runoff.
3. Consider using grating rather than planks when building or repairing docks.

Let's keep the seagrass in our bays as healthy as we can!!"

\*\*Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR)

From Bob Weronik, President:

"The 2016 Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue Board of Directors has had several meetings in January with much to report.

Acting Fire Chief Don Adams presented a comprehensive island fire and rescue SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis as requested by the Board. As part of the analysis, Acting Chief Adams spoke to numerous community members and all the paid professionals of LGIFR, and reviewed industry standards and best practices. As part of the SWOT analysis, Acting Chief Adams developed goals and strategies for 2016 to address process improvements. The full presentation is posted on the LGIFR website, <http://www.lgifr.com>.

The Board established four Advisory Groups to guide the Board in decision making. One Board member was requested to volunteer for each Advisory Group to assist in its charter organization and membership. The following appointments were discussed:

- Fire Chief Search: Paul Holmes

(Recruitment, screening and interviewing potential candidates.)

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- LGIFR Infrastructure: Leigh Olson  
(Maintenance, management and planning of all LGIFR assets.)
- Firehouse Building Planning: Andrew Hagelin  
(Define needs, research options and plan firehouse.)
- Compliance and Risk Management: Bob Weronik  
(Manage risk, measure and management compliance.)

Chairman Bob Weronik developed an online three-question survey for LGIFR members regarding the methods they prefer to be communication with by the Board and solicit for Advisory Group volunteers. The survey is posted on both the LGIFR Facebook page and website. Islanders are urged to take this quick survey.

The next LGIFR Board meeting will be February 6, 2016, at 10:00am, at the LGIFR firehouse. All LGIFR Board Meetings are audio recorded and archived. The records are available to anyone upon request.”

\*\*LGPOA- Free Membership Continues...

From Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson:

“Update: So far 95 new and renewing LGPOA Members have successfully logged on to [www.lgpoa.org](http://www.lgpoa.org) to enroll in the limited time offer LGPOA Free Membership. Don’t miss out! On the homepage click on LGPOA Free Membership.”

\*\*Upcoming Holidays!

February 2nd Ground Hog Day  
 February 7th Super Bowl 50 and Boy Scout Day  
 February 8th Chinese New Year  
 February 9th Fat Tuesday  
 February 10th Ash Wednesday  
 February 14th Valentine’s Day  
 February 15th President’s Day  
 February 29th Leap Day

Not so well known, but fun to know...

February 6th Lame Duck Day  
 February 15th National Gumdrop Day  
 February 22nd Be Humble Day  
 February 26th Tell a Fairy Tale Day  
 February 28th National Tooth Fairy Day

#### LGPOA DISTRICT ADDRESSES

Which district are you in?

- District 1: 8000 – 8288
- District 2: 8292 – 8538, including: 8542, 8550, 8556, 8560, 8564, 8568, 8570, 8576, 8578, 8586
- District 3: 8594 – 8888, including: 8546, 8554, 8558, 8562, 8566, 8574, 8582, 8590, excluding: 8802-8818 (even #'s)
- District 4: 8890 - 9134, including: 8802-8818 (even #'s)
- District 5: 9140 – 9394
- District 6: Hideaway Bay

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- District 7: 9420 – 9646, excluding: 9494, 9498, 9502
- District 8: 9660 – 9908, including: 9494, 9498, 9502

Who is your LGPOA representative?

- Richard Leydon, President, representing District 4, leydonrealestate@gmail.com
- Andy Hagelin, Director, representing District 1, Andrew.hagelin@gmail.com
- Rhonda Freeman, Director, representing District 2

rffreeman123@yahoo.com

- Rhonda Olson, Director, representing District 3, twrhonda@gmail.com
- Mary Lou Davidson, Director, representing District 5, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com
- Anita Burger, Secretary, representing District 6, bfaburger@gmail.com
- Paul Holmes, Treasurer, representing District 7, pbholmes0@gmail.com
- Tom McCoy, Director, representing District 8, thomas.mccoy@vanderbilt.edu

Committee Chairs:

- Environmental: Linda Soderquist, lunist@hotmail.com
- Island Services: Phyllis NeSmith, phlstory2@gmail.com
- Social: Chris Stonebridge, Chris.Stonebridge@cnrair.com
- Membership: Mary Lou Davidson, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com
- Hurricane: Leigh Olson, leighols@gmail.com and Stacy Supanich-Magoon, supanichs@me.com
- Website Design and Maintenance: Mary Lou Davidson, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com and Bob Mahoney, bobjm77@yahoo.com
- Navigation: Tom McCoy, thomas.mccoy@vanderbilt.edu

Please feel free to email me with any information you'd like circulated in the next month's Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of the month. Content is reviewed by board members for approval.

Much appreciated! Rhonda Olson, twrhonda@gmail.com

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