



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

April 2016, Coconut Telegraph

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

- **LGPOA annual meeting – Saturday, May 21, 2016
- **LGPOA Board Elections
- **2016 Labor Day Cookout and Fishing Tournament, Volunteers needed!
- **4th of July annual LGPOA picnic - Sunday, July 3rd
- **Police Presence During March
- **Sailboat Update
- **Beach Nesting Birds and Rescuing Wildlife Information

Great American Cleanup April 3rd - April 9th!

Interested in helping?

Next week (starting Sunday, April 3rd) we are looking for people to remove garbage from our mangroves, inner-island and the beach. Larger garbage will be accepted at Eldred's Marina on April 9th. (No appliances or TVs). Volunteers who sign up in advance will receive a T-Shirt provided by Keep Charlotte Beautiful.

How can you help?

1. You can individually pick up empty and drop off full bags of garbage (no household) every day beginning Sunday, April 3rd at LGI Carts from 9am-noon. Each bag needs to have a form completed describing its' contents. They're very easy to fill out and important because the data collected helps the county continue the clean up.
2. If you want to be assigned with a group of volunteers, show up at 8am on Sunday the 3rd. We have 7 volunteers so far, more are welcome to join. Bring gloves and water shoes!
3. On Saturday, April 9th, another group of volunteers are needed to help collect and transport garbage across the bay to Eldred's Marina from 8 until noon. Volunteers are needed to:
 - Help unload garbage and collect forms at Eldred's, we have two volunteers already!
 - Provide boat transportation for the collected waste to the dumpster at Eldred's.
 - Comb lots, mangroves and the beach, we have 5 different volunteers!! More are volunteering every day!
 - Provide carts and trailers to haul collected waste to the boats.
4. If you know of a problem area on the island that needs attention, please let us know at lgicarts@gmail.com.

Be a part of your future! Be an LGPOA member!

If you can participate, please visit the volunteer section at www.lgpoa.org or email the above address. Be sure to leave your name, email, dates you can help, the type of help you can provide and don't forget shirt sizes for you and your helpers! Any questions, please call 941-999-7788.

****Mark your calendar... LGPOA annual meeting – May 21, 2016!**

The Little Gasparilla Island Property Owners Associations (LGPOA) Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 21, at 10am at the Placida Beach Condos.

Board Elections for Districts 2-4-6-8 will follow. If all candidates run unopposed there will be no election, new officers will be appointed.

****LGPOA Board Elections**

From Secretary, Anita Burger:

“Please find below the board candidate statements:”

Rhonda Freeman District 2, Re-election

I am a Floridian and truly love this state and this island. I care deeply about the present and the future of our island as a wonderful place that we all want to visit and live on. As a homeowner, I want to preserve our way of life for the people living here and work to keep the island as pristine as possible for us and the native fauna and flora who have inhabited our lands for tens of thousands of years.

During my 35+ years as an engineer I have developed the skills to think strategically and act tactically to develop practical solutions to the threats and opportunities we face on LGI.

Throughout my career I have led and managed people honing the skills to work with folks and to negotiate through tough situations to mutually beneficial outcomes. Finally, I have filled the empty District 2 position for several months and have developed a good handle on the issues facing our group at this time. I would like to continue to serve the wonderful citizens of this island and specifically District 2.

Richard W. Leydon, Jr. District 4, Re-election

As per the LGPOA requirements, I, Richard W. Leydon Jr., am submitting my name for re-election to the LGPOA board of directors to continue representing District 4.

Barbara Floria Orcutt District 6

I have been active in every community I have lived in, and believe in an informed and active citizenry. As such, I have participated in community forums in cities as large as New York, and as small as Glenwood Springs, CO.

Now retired, I was a journalist for 30 years, specializing in travel and health. In 1987 I was the founding editor of “Vitality,” a corporate health magazine. In 2011 I began my second career as a high school teacher for at-risk teens, earning a teaching degree followed by a Masters in teaching English as a second language.

I look forward to working with board members and homeowners to protect the fragile environment of LGI while fostering a political process that is transparent and inclusive.

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****The 4th of July annual picnic will be celebrated on Sunday, July 3rd.**

****2016 Labor Day Cookout and Fishing Tournament:**

The LGPOA is looking for a volunteer(s) to coordinate the 2016 Little Gasparilla Island Labor Day Weekend Fishing Tournament. This event has become an island tradition of fishing, good food, good neighbors, and fellowship and was sorely missed last year. The Tournament is “turn-key” but needs an energetic individual to put the event in motion.

The LGPOA will help get you started with everything you’ll need to step in and make it a great success. If you are willing to do so, please volunteer at www.lgpoa.org or e-mail maryloudavidson@yahoo.com.

****Police Presence During March**

The LGPOA made a decision to hire one additional police officer to patrol the island for the 3 consecutive Saturday evenings during the March Spring Break. It appears that, as a result of our preventive measures, on-island incidents during the month of March were kept to a minimum. There were a total of 8 incidents reported. (2 -Disturbing the peace, 2-Trespass, 1- Animal complaint, 1- Agency Assisted eviction, 1- Assault, 1-Fire.) On the flip side, we are pleased to report that there were no serious injuries, property damage or thefts reported.

Working together during March proved to be successful. Be sure to thank the Verney family who allowed officers the use of their golf cart. We would like to thank Officer John Stewart for his ongoing assistance on the island. He has gone above and beyond to help orient, train and support the police officers that we hire.

Homeowners and property managers worked collectively to pre-screen their guests during this period and responded quickly and deliberately to the disturbance complaints of affected neighbors. A “shout out” to Captain Emmett for his willingness to notify homeowners of young people boarding his taxi en route to occupy homes on the island. Finally, the LGPOA board would like to express its appreciation of islanders who pitched in to pick up the litter that was left behind.

Our promise is to continue our concerted efforts each season to make spring break on the island safer and less intrusive. It wasn’t perfect, but we feel that through communication and extra police presence incidents were kept to a minimum.

****Sailboat Update**

At the March 23, 2016 hearing a judge ordered the loose debris (the parts that are on the beach, near the dunes) be removed prior to May 1st, the beginning of the turtle-nesting season. The rest of the vessel (buried in the wet sand) is to be removed within 340 days, which seems like a long time, but there is now actually a deadline. The owners are to coordinate the removal efforts with FWC, DEP, Charlotte County and whoever else might have an interest in this to make sure the removal does not cause any more damage.

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Environmental Committee

From Environmental Chair, Linda Soderquist:

“Beach-nesting Birds

Several species of shorebirds and seabirds nest along our Gulf coasts beaches. Habitat loss has restricted many of these species. Our shorebirds are particularly sensitive to human disturbance. For example, one dog passing near a colony of nesting seabirds can cause all the birds to panic and subsequently leave their nests dangerously exposed to the hot boiling sun.

How you can help protect beach-nesting birds:

- Never enter areas posted with shorebird/seabird signs.
- Keep dogs on a leash and away from areas where birds may be nesting.
- Keep cats indoors, and do not feed stray cats.
- Properly dispose of trash to keep predators away.
- Do not fly kites near areas where birds may be nesting.
- When birds are aggravated, you are too close.

Shorebird nesting season has already started and will continue through July. Last summer we found and marked solitary shorebird nests (both Wilson’s Plovers and Snowy Plovers). We have had a colony of Least Terns nesting on LGI, but they moved to more favorable nesting beaches. For more information, check out these websites: <http://myfwc.com/> or <http://www.flshorebirdalliance.org/>

****Rescuing Wildlife**

The nearest wildlife rehab organization is the Wildlife Center of Venice. They will send someone to the marinas or Placida boat ramp to collect injured wildlife and will give you advice on capture and transport. This organization has all the state and Federal permits to care for and rehabilitate sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. Visit their website for more information.

<http://wildlifecenterofvenice.org/>

The Wildlife Center Of Venice, Inc.

(941) 484-9657 Daytime (941) 416-4967 Emergency”

Dates of Interest in April!

April 1 - April Fool’s Day

April 15 - Tax Day

April 22 - Earth Day

April 22 - Passover Begins

April 29 - Arbor Day

April 30 - Passover Ends

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

April 2 - International Children’s Book Day

April 7 - No Housework Day

April 8 - Name Yourself Day

April 10 - Encourage a Young Writer Day

April 12 - Big Wind Day

April 20 - Look Alike Day

April 26 - Hug an Australian Day

April 27 - Babe Ruth Day

April 30 - National Honesty Day

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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
- 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
rfreeman123@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, linist@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 January 2015, Coconut Telegraph

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