

March 2020, Coconut Telegraph

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

****Please welcome our new Island Deputy William (Billy) Prummell III**

****Results of LGPOA Bi-annual Elections** - Please thank Roy Petteway (District 8), Joe Bokar (District #5) and Barb Dwyer (District #6)

****Navigation** - Channel #2 update

****LGPOA Annual Membership Drive** - Did you get your letter?

****LGPOA Annual Meeting & Potluck Picnic** - April 11th

****Environmental** - Water Quality Control & Animal Rescue

**** LGIFR Update**

Spring Break tips...Police Protection

As we prepare for our Spring Break visitors, islanders and visiting guests will be reassured by the additional police officers hired by the LGPOA. Each officer that's new to our unique island is briefed by Billy Prummell and receives an island customs orientation from an LGPOA board member.

What can you do to help if you have guests?

1. Are adults staying at your home to supervise your younger guests?
2. We all know litter occurs, sometimes accidentally, please encourage your guests to pick up after themselves and others.
3. If your guests have pets, provide or ask them to bring waste bags for animal clean up. Remind them to bring their leashes!
4. Carts need at least a flashlight for travel at night on the island. Encourage people to drive slow and be mindful of other islanders.
5. Store fishing equipment out of site and secure your golf carts.

We know these "island customs" are expected on the island, but visitors may not. Please share them to make the island a better place for everyone!

****Please welcome our new Island Deputy William (Billy) Prummell III #2684**

I have been employed with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office since June of 2011. Of my nine years as a deputy, I have spent over six as a detective working

property crimes, violent crimes, sex crimes and domestic violence. I have grown up with law enforcement around me, my name may sound familiar to many of you.

I am 29 years old and have spent most of my life right here in Englewood. I graduated from Lemon Bay and the State College of Florida. I am married to my wife Marla and have one son (Billy the 4th) who is 8 years old.

I am excited to be a part of the Sheriff's Office Community Policing Team and to be the Island Deputy. I have enjoyed everyday of my career as a Deputy but have to say the last few weeks have been wonderful patrolling a lovely community and spending my shift there meeting more and more delightful people.

****Results of LGPOA Bi-annual Elections**

The LGPOA is still looking for a volunteer for District 2 but we have great news about district 8.

District 8 Volunteer

My name is Roy Petteway. I have recently purchased 9744 LGI and now live in district 8. I have been a homeowner on Seagrape Lane for the last 37 years, as well as a 5th generation Floridian who grew up in these waters. I feel I have a unique perspective, as I have seen how the island has changed over the last 37 years that I've been here, and while progress is inevitable, it should come with the quaint charm this island has always had. As a business owner, I understand finances, management, etc. and I believe this would be beneficial to the board.

Two new board members taking open districts for the LGPOA:

We are so excited to welcome the following board members to the LGPOA. And at the same time we want to thank those that have volunteered their time in the past!

District 5 - Joseph Bokar (Navigation and Water Quality)

I am an avid boater and fisherman from Cleveland, Ohio. My family, consisting of my wife, Dawn, son, Joe, and daughter, Allie, and I discovered the LGI region,

while chartering a trawler out of Sarasota for our annual spring break vacation about 20 years ago. As our children grew older, we decided to rent a place on one of these really “neat islands” we had passed and dinghied into on our charter trips.

Dawn pulled out the charts from our prior adventures and pointed to one that appeared more secluded than the others, and we explored the LGI rental market. We stayed for a number of trips on the beach, on the north end, then the beach and canals on the south end. We purchased a buildable lot for our “forever” retirement home, but upon (me) getting impatient we subsequently purchased a beachfront unit in the Placida Beach condominiums. Currently we are only part time residents, but will become official residents later this year, now that I am retired up north.

Although we haven’t lived on the island fulltime, to date, we have made numerous friends on the island, and have remained in touch with island issues important to all of us. I hope to be a voice of reason on the POA board, and I assure you that the common good will supersede any personal biases or agendas I might encounter.

District 6 - Barb Dwyer

I started coming to Hideaway Bay Beach Club (HBBC) in 2014 as a ‘snowbird’ when I retired. I bought my condo in January 2016. I moved to the island in August of 2016 & setup permanent residency. I was elected to the HBBC board in December of 2019. I have loved every minute on our beautiful island paradise.

Previously, I worked for 15 years as a Lab Scientist for the J&J Company Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics. I started my career in Research & Development. I worked with a group developing new tests for the Vitros blood analyzer. In the later part of my career, I worked in Product Support to help troubleshoot problems in the field - both mechanical and chemistry related. Though this background doesn’t directly relate to a position on the Board, many of the skills I have learned and used will correlate. My jobs had me working with a diverse group of people. We would gather information, test hypothesis and make decisions based on the results achieved.

I believe this is also the responsibility of a board member- to gather information, research solutions and make informed decisions. For these reasons I'm looking forward to representing District 6 for the LGPOA.

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Determining Your District by Address Number:

#1 - 8000 – 8288

#2 - 8292 – 8538 plus 8542, 8550, 8556, 8560, 8564, 8568, 8570, 8576, 8578, 8586

#3 - 8594 – 8888 excluding 8546, 8554, 8558, 8562, 8566, 8574, 8582, 8590, and excluding even numbers 8802 – 8818 (even #'s)

#4 - 8890 – 9134 plus 8802 -8818 (even #'s)

#5 - 9140 – 9394

#6 - Hideaway Bay Condominiums

#7 - 9420 – 9646 excluding 9494, 9498, 9502

#8 - 9660 – 9908 plus 9494, 9498, 9502

****Navigation - Channel #2 update**

From Navigation Chair, Joe Bokar:

Red marker #2, at the turn from the main (east-west) channel, to the south channel was reinstalled in February. We will continue to stay abreast of additional marker and channel maintenance. Please contact me at joseph.bokar@case.edu with your marker concerns and I will be happy to report and follow up.

**** LGPOA Annual Membership Drive**

From Membership Chair, Dawn Bokar:

The 2020 LGPOA membership drive is about to get underway with 2020 membership packet arriving in your mailbox any day now! You can mail in your legibly completed form and check as instructed in the letter or go online to www.lgpoa.org/membership and complete the form and payment. Don't miss out on island news and updated information. Get the real story here! Current

memberships expire on April 30, 2020. Join before the 30th of April and you're grandfathered in until May 2021.

As you'll see, the letter was missing the date of the annual meeting, but as you know the date has been published here in the Coconut Telegraph for two months. Please see below.

****Mark your calendar- LGPOA Annual Meeting & Potluck Picnic**

This years Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Picnic will be held at the Placida Beach Condos on Saturday, April 11th. The meeting will start at 11am and the picnic will follow.

Bring a chair, a dish to pass and your neighbor! The food is always so good. You can bring a side dish or a dessert. Your dues will provide the main course, paper products and water. Bring a beverage of your choice if you'd like.

If you are interesting in grilling the main course or volunteering to pick up paper products/water for the event please let us know at twrhonda@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for pitching in!

****Environmental Committee - Water Quality on LGI & Animal Rescue**

From Linda Soderquist:

The Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network is a coordinated system of more than 80 volunteers who regularly conduct water quality monitoring throughout the six local aquatic preserves in southwest Florida. The monitoring network ranges across Lemon Bay, Gasparilla Sound-Charlotte Harbor, Pine Island Sound, Matlacha Pass, San Carlos Bay and Estero Bay estuaries.

Volunteers from Little Gasparilla Island are a part of this network, with a sampling site on the Bay near Bay Street. Once a month at sunrise, volunteers sample 14 field parameters and take samples for six additional parameters that are sent to a lab for analysis. Volunteers receive initial classroom training on the importance of estuarine environments, the need for their monitoring results and attend quality assurance practice sessions as a group twice a year. Volunteers record the data

measured onto [data sheets](#). The data is then entered into a database and transformed into graphs and tables.

I have done this monthly sunrise sampling for the past 15 years, with Duffy Smith and Joe Bokar taking over the sampling and data collection this spring. Water quality is of huge importance to our islanders and we appreciate the work that these volunteers are doing.

More details on the sampling parameters and cumulative data can be accessed at <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/aquatic-preserve/content/charlotte-harbor-estuaries-volunteer-water-quality-monitoring-network>. The Little Gasparilla Island site is coded GSV006.

Animal Rescue

Please remember to call the Venice Wildlife Center if you come upon an injured animal. Their phone number is 941-484-9657. Feel free to visit their website at <https://wildlifecenterofvenice.org> for information on donations and volunteer opportunities.

****Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR)** (The LGPOA is not affiliated with the LGIFR, we just want to keep you up to date on all island activities.)

From Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue Auxiliary:

Cruising the Mediterranean Fundraising Dinner
From Pede Fraser:

There were 85 people in attendance! Door prizes included two tandem kayaks and a week at a beach house. Everyone had a great time!

From Fire Chief, Bill Underhill:

We are at the time of year that's dry and breezy. If you are going to burn stay with the fire until it is completely out and keep a hose close by. On Monday 220 acres burned in less than one hour. It entailed fire units from five agencies, division of forestry tractors and three helicopters. There is no possible way to get those assets to the island so everyone has to be careful. Any unattended fires will be put out if found.

Spring break is here. Boat traffic is getting heavy. There are at least 2 channel markers missing so some sandbars and grass flats may be assaulted by unfamiliar operators. Everyone be careful out there!

We are also seeing an increase of theft from boats again. If you can't lock it up or remove it, try to secure portable fuel tanks with cable or chain as they have been taking the entire tank.

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Please feel free to email me at twrhonda@gmail.com 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.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Rhonda Olson