

April, 2014 Coconut Telegraph

The Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association held its Annual Meeting on April 5th. Board seats in District 2, 4, 6, and 8 were up for election, and the current Directors were re-elected unopposed.

LGPOA President David Haynes listed **LGPOA's accomplishments in the last year**. They include 2 island cleanups in September and March, the 5th Annual Labor Day weekend fishing tournament which raised \$2600 for LGIFR, the establishment of a \$1000 reward for information leading to the conviction of anyone charged with vandalism or golf cart theft. Additionally, the LGPOA assisted in drafting a local bill to save LGI's docks and funded a professional lobbyist to shepherd the bill through the Florida legislature.

Deputy **John Stewart** gave a report about island safety. Islanders were very concerned about an assault and battery that took place at the Hideaway condominiums. A warrant for the arrest of the alleged assailant has been issued. He also discussed golf cart thefts and how to prevent them. The easiest and least expensive thing to do is to chain the golf cart to a post or utilize some sort of lock. Here are three links to locking devices:

<http://www.everythingcarts.com/p-1110-dr-hook-golf-cart-pedal-lock.aspx>

<http://www.walmart.com/ip/34109609?wmlspartner=wlp&adid=2222222227022843876&wl0=&wl1=g&wl2=t&wl3=35678485741&wl4=&wl5=pla&wl6=64435000021&veh=sem>

<http://www.overstock.com/Home-Garden/The-Club-Pedal-to-Wheel-Vehicle-Anti-Theft-Lock/2114658/product.html>

Also at the Annual Meeting, **Jack Boyer of Little Gasparilla Water Utility** answered questions about his plan to bring Charlotte County water to LGI. He plans to lay pipe on the entire island to bring water to all islanders. Charlotte County ordinances grant him the power to require every island home to hook up to his system and he plans to use that power. He also has the power to request a waiver from the Charlotte County Commission for those homes in his district that do not want to hook up, but he plans **not** to do so. His current connection fee is \$4500, but he has a request to the Florida Public Service Commission to increase that fee. In addition to the connection fee, there will be a minimum quarterly "meter" fee plus the cost of water used. Many islanders who have their own water system are very unhappy about the mandatory hookup, but those who are already using LGWU's water are pleased that the water quality will improve.

LGPOA **Environmental committee** chair Linda Soderquist reports that Snowy Plovers and Least Terns are nesting on the south end of LGI. Please be on the lookout for these little shorebirds and try not to disturb their nesting sites. Also Sea Turtle nesting season begins May 1st. Please remember that lights must not shine on the beach and beach toys, furniture etc. must be removed by sundown to protect nesting turtles and their hatchlings.

Linda has more information that she would be happy to share. Contact her at 941-698-0230.

Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue has a new chief. Steve Demeter started on April 14th. Chief Demeter is a Florida-certified instructor and would like to train island volunteers to assist in both firefighting and emergency medical service. If you would like to volunteer, please call the firehouse at 270-7607.

The Board of Directors appointed Karyn Flatau to replace Malcolm King who has sold his island property.

At its March 29 Board meeting, the Board of Directors received a report from its Financial Advisory group with two possible 2015 budgets – one with a 5% increase in the assessment, and one without the increase. The Board and LGIFR members present discussed but did not vote on the two possible budgets. Input from LGIFR's members is always welcome.

The Board will vote on whether or not to raise the assessment at its June meeting. Minutes of LGIFR's Board meetings are posted on its website: www.lgifr.com.

For those Facebook users who would like to sell, trade or give away items on LGI, check out island property owner Cathy Weronik's closed Facebook group entitled "Little Gasparilla Island Homeowners Forum".