



May 2016, Coconut Telegraph

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

****Board member needed for District 8** (9660 – 9908, including: 9494, 9498, 9502)

****4th of July Annual LGPOA Picnic - Sunday, July 3rd**

****Sailboat Update**

****April Great American Cleanup - Success!!**

****Sea turtle season is upon us, how can you help?**

****LGIFR accomplishments from 1st quarter, 2016.**

LGPOA Annual meeting – May 21, 2016! Pot Luck!!

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

We'll be cooking up some hotdogs after the meeting!! Please bring a chair, dish to pass and your own beverage.

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 new board candidate statements. We continue to look for a representative for District 8. If you’re interested, please contact me at bfaburger@gmail.com.”

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.

****4th of July Annual Picnic will be celebrated on Sunday, July 3rd.**

Social Committee Chair needed:

If you're interested in becoming the Social Committee chair for the LGPOA, the position is open! Chris Stonebridge has held this position for almost two years and has done a remarkable job! If you'd like to volunteer, please let her know at Chris.Stonebridge@cnrair.com.

****Great American Cleanup April 3rd - April 9th! Success!!**

Starting April 3rd there were a group of islanders who combed the mangroves from the Preserve to the south side of the Placida Condos for an hour or two each day. On Friday and Saturday we hauled the bags collected all week by boat to the dumpster at Eldred's. Two lots were cleaned, one on the corner of Marsh and Grande and the other on Gulf. Several appliances, carpet, golf cart parts, lawn chairs, etc. were removed and transported to Eldred's.

A HUGE "thank you" to everyone who helped with the event!

Keep Charlotte Beautiful provided T-shirts, golf cart towels, bandanas, water and the dumpster. Eldred's provided a place for the dumpster for the weekend! LGI Carts handed out, collected and stored bags. Say thanks if you get a chance to all of the above!

All of the islanders that helped walked away with a T-shirt and a great sense of accomplishment after removing 2 ½ tons of trash again this spring!

Our next cleanup will be in September. We can't wait to see you there!"

****Sailboat Update**

At the March 23, 2016 hearing, a judge ordered the loose debris (the parts that are on the beach, near the dunes) to 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. 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 further damage.

At present, the vessel remains half buried in the sand, but great news...the debris has been removed from the beach!

****Environmental Committee**

From Environmental Chair, Linda Soderquist:

Sea turtle season is here! Nesting season runs from May 1st through October 31st.

Please note these highlights from the Charlotte County Sea Turtle Ordinance 98-14:

- Remove your furniture from the beach at sunset.
- No lights can shine on the nesting areas, so be sure your outside house lights facing the beach are off at night, and do not use flashlights on the beach.
- Vehicles and fires are not permitted on the beach.

If you have questions about sea turtles or would like free sea turtle informational flyers, please contact Linda at linist@hotmail.com. We will also post LGI sea turtle information and season highlights on Facebook at Little Gasparilla Island Turtles and Shorebirds.

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

From Bob Weronik, President:

Quarter 1 2016 Accomplishments:

- Stabilized paid staff by addressing morale, appointing acting fire chief, and hiring new FF/medics.
- Established 4 Advisory Group with community representation.
- Developed and communicated board strategies and priorities.
- Conducted an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (risk assessment) (positioned for grant applications).
- Developed a collaborative relationship with CCFR, which was non-existent.
- Working through fire house lease renewal – completed 90% of building and grounds repairs agreed to during last lease negotiation – held community volunteer firehouse clean up

event with 16 volunteers.

- Hosted 2 “coffee and donuts” meet and greet event with Acting Fire Chief Adams to build island relationships.
- Gained approval from Acting Fire Chief for Firefighter 1 online training.
- Updated website, archived dated documents.
- Conducted an analysis of Engine 71 accessibility – learned a good portion of island cannot be served by apparatus.
- Conducting a search for Fire Chief – identified 2 final candidates – on hold due to possible litigation.
- Conducted a time / day analysis for fire and ems calls on island – learned the vast majority of calls are EMS – concentrated in Hiway condos area – and times are diverse.
- Successfully passed State EMS compliance audit.
- Conducted an inventory and conditions assessment of LGIFR equipment for life cycle management.

Web Site: A volunteer to create and maintain the LGIFR website is needed.

Full minutes for all meetings can be found at lgifr.com.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be May 14, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. at the LGIFR firehouse.

Dates of Interest in May!

May 5 - Cinco De Mayo

May 8 - Mother's Day

May 30 - Memorial Day

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

May 1 - Hawaii Lei Day

May 2 - Brother and Sisters Day
May 6 - Nurse's Day
May 11 - Eat What You Want Day
May 16 - Love a Tree Day
May 18 - Visit Your Relatives Day
May 21 - Armed Forces Day
May 23 - Lucky Penny 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
- 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, linist@hotmail.com
- Island Services: Phyllis NeSmith, phlstory2@gmail.com
- Social: Chris Stonebridge, Chris.Stonebridge@cnrail.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