



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

September 2016, Coconut Telegraph

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

**Cart path etiquette

**Brand new LGPOA website

**International Coastal Cleanup on our Island, September 17th

**Environmental update

**Island Wide Garage Sale details for November 26th

**LGIFR update and hurricane do's and don'ts

Labor Day festivities:

Kids' Marine Clinic – Sunday, September 4th

There will be a session at 10 am and another at 11 am. The children will learn about turtles, manatees and the importance of sea grasses in our bay. The best part...the kids get to use nets in the sea grass to examine and observe the life it sustains. Water shoes are a must! All children that sign up ahead of time will receive a bag of treasures to take home.

Who? Kids of all ages invited.

When? Session 1 is 10 am - 11 and Session 2 is 11 to 12, to save your spot call 941-999-7788.

Where? South and East of Hideaway Condo Building "A"

Why? Learn about turtles, manatees and sea grasses. Collect critters to observe and HAVE FUN!

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LGIFR T - Shirt Sales, Fire Truck Fun & "Go For the Gold" Fundraiser booth– Sunday, September 4th

LGIFR will be selling T-shirts on Sunday, September 4, from 11 am to 2 pm on the main road in front of the Hideaway Condominiums.

The LGIFR fire truck will be there to run its hoses for kids, adults and dogs to enjoy! There will also be a table there to advertise and receive donations for the "Go For the Gold" fundraiser, which will be held September 17th. Details can be found below in the LGIFR section.

**Cart Path:

From the LGPOA Board of Directors:

We all agree that LGI is a unique place. We enjoy many things on the island that we can't see or do elsewhere. This is true not only because of the unique environment but because of the tolerance shown to each of us by our island neighbors.

There are very few, if any, homeowners on the island who don't rely on the goodwill of neighboring property owners for access to their lots. With few exceptions, our "roadways" are not roads at all—rather, pathways through other people's yards. We encourage islanders and their guests to be mindful of the signs and instructions from landowners. Respect barricades and landscaping.

Island life, as we know it, depends on these access roadways. Thank you for complying and helping us educate others about this island custom so we may all continue to enjoy this privilege.

**What's New? The LGPOA WEBSITE!

From the LGPOA Board of Directors:

The LGPOA is pleased to announce the launch of their NEW "Blog Style" WEBSITE! www.lgpoa.org. Island volunteers now manage the site and all content is in real time. We hope you will recommit to this useful tool for all island communications. A calendar of events, island weather stations and hurricane preparedness information are available on the main page with just one click.

If you would like one of your Island Pictures displayed on the Website, please submit your electronic file by September 30. Best in show will make our home page slideshow while others will be part of an on line islander web gallery. Please submit to maryloudavidson@yahoo.com. Preferred images would be horizontal; image size must be at least 1500 PPI.

**International Coastal Cleanup – September, 17th 2016

Mark your calendars! Islanders can come, help collect and transport items to a dumpster at Eldred's Marina.

We are looking for volunteers to remove garbage from our mangroves, the inner-island and also from the beach from 8 until noon. If you want to work with others, meet at the golf cart shop at 8, otherwise there will be volunteers at the dumpsters to help you unload.

You may drop any full bags from 9-noon at the golf cart shop all week long starting on the 13th. They will have the forms needed, your T-shirts and bags for you to use as well. Larger garbage will be accepted at Eldred's Marina on the 19th. (No appliances or TVs). Volunteers will receive a T-shirt, as long as you

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sign up in advance!! If you can participate, please visit the volunteer section at www.lgpoa.org . Be sure to leave your name, email, dates you plan to help, and don't forget shirt sizes for you and your helpers! Any questions, please call 941-999-7788. So far 8 volunteers have signed up.

**Environmental Committee

From Environmental Chair, Linda Soderquist:

Mosquitoes!

Yes, mosquitoes are a concern on LGI. We have all heard about diseases associated with mosquito bites. You can help by checking your property (and the homes around you that are vacant) for standing water. Specifically, empty water in buckets, old tires, flowerpots, etc., that may be a breeding places for mosquito larvae. Call or e-mail Charlotte County Mosquito Control (941-764-4370) when you feel mosquitoes are a concern.

Scorpions

There are scorpions on LGI, as we all know. There have been many reports of scorpion stings. An encounter with a scorpion is a painful experience. Check the LGPOA website for information on scorpions. If you are stung, a call to the non-emergency LGIFR number (941-270-7607) can assist you in seeking treatment. If you are having an allergic reaction, call 911.

Sea Turtle Update

We had over 200 loggerhead nests this season and 2 green turtle nests. However, our beach has many predators that have destroyed eggs and hatchlings in great numbers. As our sea turtle nesting season winds down, we want to remind homeowners that all lights shining on the beach (flashlights, spotlights, fishing lights, fires, lights from homes, etc.) are not allowed May 1 through October 31 (Sea Turtle Ordinance 98-14). Hatchlings have difficulty finding their way to the water when lights are a distraction. So far this season we have three documented disorientations, where hatchlings have crawled the wrong way, away from the water. With so many predators, it is extremely important that we protect remaining nests from manmade hazards, such as lights on the beach and furniture left out overnight. Thank you!

Shorebirds

Sadly, we did not identify any shorebird nests on LGI this season, which ended August 1. It appears that our beach is no longer a suitable habitat for nesting, with some increased vegetation areas and many dogs that frighten off the birds.

**ISLAND WIDE GARAGE SALE! Mark your calendars now!

Last year's event was so much fun. Our seller's sold furniture, household items and artwork to many of us who traveled the island paths in search of treasure.

When? November 26th (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) from 9am to 1 pm.

Who? Anyone can have a sale, just email us your house number and any items you'd like listed or featured. (Please submit by November 15th.) Signage will be placed on the main sand path advertising your house number to make it easier to find.

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Who? Anyone can attend the sales as well! We'll circulate a list of garage sales and available items to all POA members one week prior. You will also find this information posted on island bulletin.

Why? Why not? You can upcycle your unwanted items to someone that can use them and make some Ca\$h at the same time! Much easier then hauling the items off the island, right?

We hope to see you on the 26th of November!

Please contact us with information regarding your sale and any questions at twrhonda@gmail.com.

****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 Bob Weronik, President: The next meeting is September 17th at 10 am at the firehouse.

"Go For the Gold" Fundraiser

On the 4th of September there will be a booth by the shirt sales and fire truck on the main road in front of Hideaway from 11 to 2. You can sign up for the event or make a donation if you can't attend for the "Go For the Gold" fundraiser on September 17th.

The money raised will go towards a golf cart for the department. Our chief is administrative only, meaning he doesn't answer EMT calls when he's on the island. He can't use the Polaris (from the EMT on duty) when he needs to do business (home visits, etc.)

The fundraiser will take place at the Hideaway picnic area at 5 pm on Saturday, September 17th. Your dinner is included in the ticket price. There are 3 levels of donation for each person, \$75 for Gold, \$50 for silver and \$25 for bronze. These tickets will put you in a grand prize drawing for everyone who participates (you can donate if you can't attend) and individuals in attendance will win prizes (according to their donation level) from local supporters. The response from them has been so generous (more gifts for you)! We also will award another grand prize for the largest donation (minimum of \$200). And lastly, there will be a raffle for islander donations of services.

Don't forget to sign up, bring some cash for the raffle, a charged cart and a cooler with your choice of beverage. We are going to have some island fun! Let's Go For the Gold! Contact Pede Fraser at 941-830-0990 to make a reservation or donate if you can't attend. If you'd like to donate giveaways for the event from your business she'd love to hear from you as well.

Hurricane Information

From Don Adams, Chief:

The tropical storms in the region most certainly affect life on Little Gasparilla Island. Weather services and emergency management officials are reminding people that while hurricane season is winding down, we should all have emergency plans and supplies on hand. Residents should stock emergency supplies to last for seven days if access to the mainland, access on the island, electricity and water is cut off. We will let you know if Charlotte County Emergency Management suggests evacuation from the island for any reason.

Look around your property for things that may be affected by winds and flooding. Be prepared for high surf by placing any valuable object as high as you can from the ground.

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7-Day Emergency Supply Kit

Residents should have a disaster supply kit with enough of the following items to last for seven days:

1. Water: One gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation
2. Food: Non-perishables that do not require cooking
3. Eating utensils: Paper plates, forks and spoons. Don't forget a non-electric can opener for canned foods
4. Radio: Battery-powered or hand crank radio with NOAA Weather alert
5. Light: Flashlight (portable fluorescent or LED light)
6. Spare batteries: Check annually
7. First Aid: First aid kit
8. Whistle: Important for signaling for help as a whistle carries much farther than the human voice and uses less energy than yelling
9. Sanitation: Moist towelettes, toilet paper, 5-gallon bucket, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
10. Tools: Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities and duct tape
11. Maps: Local area maps
12. Prescription: Special medications and glasses
13. Baby: Infant formula and diapers
14. Pets: Pet food and extra water for your pet

Do's and Don'ts

DO fill your tub(s) with water. If the water is shut off, you don't have to give up using your toilet. Fill the back tank of your toilet and flush as needed.

DO charge your phone. You should have some time between the warning and a power outage.

DO look around your property for things that may be affected by winds and flooding. Be prepared for high surf by placing any valuable object as high as you can from the ground.

DO sign up for emergency alerts. Your cell phone may be your only avenue for updates regarding the storm.

DO protect electronics. Guard TVs and computers from water damage by covering them with plastic bags (heavy contractor bags). Turn off and unplug any unnecessary electrical equipment to keep them safe from power surges.

DO pack your fridge and freezer. A tightly packed space stays better insulated than an empty one. Fill in the gaps with containers of water and turn the thermostat to the coldest setting.

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DON'T drive golf carts around the island unless it is an absolute emergency. With hurricanes come flying debris and flooded roads. This does not mean you should stay if you are in an evacuation zone. If local authorities direct you to evacuate, follow instructions and proceed with caution.

DON'T open a window. It's a common belief that a cracked window will relieve the pressure in a home, but it's not true. In fact, windows can actually cause more damage when opened. An open window allows wind to enter the home. The wind must exit somewhere, which often results in a roof or ceiling being blown off.

DON'T make phone calls unless it is an absolute emergency. If you need to contact someone, choose a text over a phone call when possible. Texting uses less power than a phone call and may go through more reliably when lines are busy.

DON'T be fooled when the eye of the storm passes. The center of the storm comes with a calm that may feel like the storm is over. This can last anywhere from a few minutes to an hour. Wait it out.

DON'T watch the storm. Projectile items blowing around outside can penetrate windows and cause severe or even fatal injuries. Draw the curtains, close the blinds, and keep your phone and radio close.

Dates of Interest in August

September 5th Labor Day

September 22nd First Day of autumn

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

September 4th Newspaper Carrier Day

September 9th Teddy Bear Day

September 11th Patriot Day

September 11th Grandparent's Day

September 12th Chocolate Milkshake Day

September 16th Constitution Day

September 19th Talk Like a Pirate Day

September 21st International Day of Peace

September 28th National Good Neighbor 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 and 8586

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- 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 and 9502
- District 8: 9660 – 9908, including: 9494, 9498 and 9502

Who is your LGPOA representative?

*Mary Lou Davidson, Secretary, representing District 1, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com

*Rhonda Freeman, Director, representing District 2, rfreeman123@yahoo.com

*Rhonda Olson, Vice President, representing District 3, twrhonda@gmail.com

*Richard Leydon, President, representing District 4, leydonrealestate@gmail.com

*Andy Hagelin, Director, representing District 5, Andrew.hagelin@gmail.com

*Barbara Orcutt, Director, representing District 6, vitaeditor@aol.com

*Paul Holmes, Treasurer, representing District 7, pbholmes0@gmail.com

*Terrie Weibley, representing District 8 as a Director, tweibley1@gmail.com

Committee Chairs:

*Island Services: Phyllis NeSmith, phlstory2@gmail.com

*Environmental: Linda Soderquist, linist@hotmail.com

*Social: Debbie Munholand, dkmphotos@me.com

*Membership: Mary Lou Davidson, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com

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*Hurricane: Leigh Olson, leighols@gmail.com & Stacey Supanich-Magoon, supanichs@me.com

*Website Design and Maintenance: Mary Lou Davidson, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com & Bob Mahoney, bobjm77@yahoo.com

*Navigation: Richard Leydon, leydonrealestate@gmail.com

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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