



Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association

PO Box 3643, Placida, FL 33946

December 2016, Coconut Telegraph

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

- **Little Gasparilla Island Property Owners Meeting
- **New District 5 LGPOA Representative
- **Fifteen Florida Fun Facts
- **Results of the Island Wide Garage Sale
- **Environmental update
- **LGIFR update - CERT orientation scheduled - link to FAQ

Mark Your Calendars!

- **LGPOA Meeting, Poker Run and Potluck

LGPOA Meeting: Sat, January 7th at 10am - Placida Beach Condos

Ante Up on Saturday, January 7th for the 2nd Annual Poker Run & Picnic. Last year was so much fun! See photos at www.lgpoa.org.

Festivities will get underway immediately following the LGPOA meeting held at 10am in the Placida Beach Condo pool room. The poker run event will begin at the open field across the cart path.

Bring a fully charged cart and your favorite beverage to run with. Place your bets for one of three grand prizes. Cards will be dealt out at 5 locations around the island and the top three hands will win a basket of goodies. Last year's grand-prize winning hand was a Royal Flush! Prizes will be awarded during the picnic which will begin at noon, hosted by our LGPOA social chair Debbie Munholand (with help from Todd). Please RSVP to Debbie at dkphotos@me.com with the number

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of guests in your party (membership is not required) and note which side dish or dessert you would like to offer.

****New District 5 Representative**

The LGPOA Board of Directors would like to welcome new District 5 Director, Karen Weeks. Married for 31 years, Karen and her husband Kent vacationed on the island in February of 2015, fell in love with it and bought a home on Coconut Palm Lane during their 2 week stay. A quick trip back to Nashville to pack up and they returned 3 weeks later. Karen states they have “never looked back!” They have one Daughter and a Son Chad who also lives on the island. Karen is looking forward to representing her District and doing everything she can to help preserve and protect the island, a place we all love and cherish! Please reach out to Karen and congratulate her.

A Note of Thanks:

The LGPOA Board would like to acknowledge outgoing District 5 Representative Andy Hagelin for his service on the LGPOA Board. Earlier this year, Andy and his wife Rebecca sold their Condo in the district creating a board vacancy. The LGPOA has benefited from Andy’s thoughtful and pragmatic approach on important issues that affect the island. We are grateful to him for volunteering for this post and his willingness to serve in the future.

Fifteen Fun Florida Facts - How many did you already know?

1. The first Thanksgiving might have actually been celebrated in Florida, not Plymouth. In *The Cross in the Sand*, historian Michael Gannon argues that a Spanish explorer celebrated a version of Thanksgiving with Timucua Indians in 1565—56 years before the first feast at Plymouth. Guests reportedly dined on bean soup.
2. In 1998, Florida passed a law requiring daycare centers to play at least one hour of classical music every day. The bill stemmed from the 1990s hype surrounding the "Mozart effect"—the belief that listening to Mozart would boost children’s intelligence. While one 1993 study seemed to support this hypothesis, more recent findings show that merely listening to Mozart's music produces no such cognitive enhancements.
3. The Florida Department of Transportation has a fleet of patrol people known as “Road Rangers” that will bring you gas if you run out.
4. In 1929, the Florida Keys built a 30-foot-tall tower to control mosquitoes. But even though architects doused the building with pheromone-infused guano as bait, not a single bat ever moved in. In fact, scientific records suggest that bats didn’t begin to inhabit the island until 1996.
5. Florida has the most golf courses of any state—more than 1,250.
6. Under the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act, it is illegal to molest, harass, disturb, or hug a manatee. In fact, a Florida father was once arrested after posting Facebook pictures of himself and his daughters playing with a manatee.
7. In 1996, Miami installed the first ATM designed specifically for Roller blading.
8. Venice, Florida, is known as the shark tooth capitol of the world. The city’s beaches are loaded with shark teeth, and collecting them has been a popular pastime of visitors and residents for decades. ☺Ha! Let’s not tell anyone this one isn’t true.
9. In the mid-1800s, Florida tried to give away its swampland to anyone who promised to drain it or fill it. By 1883, the government had given away deeds to 17.5 million acres of wetland property—even though it only owned 14.7 million acres.
10. While the Florida Everglades is often described as a swamp or a wetland, it is actually a slow moving river.

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11. Once a year, the city of Tampa is overtaken and captured by pirates. It's all part of the Gasparilla Pirate Festival, an annual celebration to commemorate the legend of José Gaspar, a pirate who supposedly operated in Southwestern Florida.
12. The oldest building in Florida is located in Miami Beach. The Cloisters of the Monastery of St. Bernard were built in Segovia, Spain in 1141 (700 years before any buildings were constructed in South Florida). In 1925, publisher William Randolph Hearst bought the building and shipped the pieces to Florida. After languishing in a warehouse for a few decades, the building was re-assembled at its present site in 1954.
13. There is no place in Florida that is more than 60 miles from a body of salt water.
14. Every year, thousands of people descend on Perdido Key, Florida, to toss mullets across the state line into Alabama. Sadly, mullets are a type of fish, not hair.
15. Gatorade was named for the mascot of the University of Florida, where the drink was invented.

****ISLAND WIDE GARAGE SALE!**

What fun! Cruising the island to visit with neighbors old and new while discovering treasure in other's "extras". What talent we have on the island...from jams and jellies to incredible watercolors, homemade items like beach bags, shell art, too much to mention...what a great morning. Hope to see you all next year at the Annual Island Wide Garage Sale which will be held the Saturday following Thanksgiving!

****Environmental Committee**

From Environmental Chair, Linda Soderquist:

Sea Turtle Data

Sea turtle nesting season ended on October 31st. Our final numbers for 2016 have been tallied. We had 212 loggerhead nests and 2 green turtle nests. The number of nests is climbing every year, but nest productivity is decreasing. We recorded a little more than 2500 eggs that hatched. Storm tides took another 5000 eggs and predators destroyed over 6400 eggs. The armadillos, coyotes, and dogs were very active this year, and even dug under many of the screens we put in place to protect nests. Our false crawls (when a turtle crawls up on the beach, but does not lay eggs) were at record numbers, letting us know that more turtles are out there. The high incidence of false crawls could also indicate some of the turtles were disturbed by people or animals on the beach after dark.

Special thanks to all our volunteers who walked our LGI beach identifying tracks, verifying nests, placing screens, and collecting data. Thanks, too, to beachfront properties who turned off and shielded lights from sunset to sunrise.

If you are interested in volunteering to help our sea turtles in 2017, please send an e-mail to Linda -linist@hotmail.com.

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****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:

LGI Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) training will begin Saturday, December 10, 2016 from noon to 5:00 PM at the firehouse. Lunch will be provided. The second training date is set for Saturday, December 17, 2016 from noon to 5:00 PM. To register please send an email to LGIFRDistrict1@gmail.com with names, email addresses/phone numbers for each participant. Please register by December 5th so that appropriate amounts of food can be secured.

Frequently asked questions can be answered by clicking on the link below.

LGIFR.com - <http://www.lgifr.com/lgi-cert-faq.html>

All LGI property owners are members of LGIFR. Please plan to attend the annual meeting of LGIFR on December 10, 2016 at 10:00 AM at the firehouse.

Dates of Interest in December

December 24th Christmas Eve & Hanukkah begins

December 25th Christmas

December 31st New Year's Eve

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

December 2nd National Fritters Day

December 4th National Cookie Day

December 5th Walt Disney's Birthday

December 9th Christmas Card Day

December 12th Poinsettia Day & National Cocoa Day

December 17th National Maple Syrup Day

December 21st 1st Day of Winter

Board and Committee names and emails can be found on the LGPOA website at www.lgpoa.org.

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. All content is reviewed by board members for approval.

Happy Holidays to you and yours! Rhonda Olson, twrhonda@gmail.com.

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