



Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association

PO Box 3643, Placida, FL 33946

March 2017, Coconut Telegraph

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

- **FPL meeting held
- **Great American Clean Up scheduled! Can you help out?
- **Notice of Bi-annual Elections & LGPOA Annual Meeting Date
- **LGPOA membership drive 2017
- **LGPOA membership volunteer needed
- **Spring break tips & police protection for March
- **Environmental update
- **LGIFR update

Comcast On LGI – More Affordable Internet for the island!

Comcast is considering running Internet to LGI. A hard line Internet option from Comcast would most likely offer reliable service without data caps and speed issues at lower costs than satellite. Ed Feehan is collecting names. He has 100 names via Facebook but needs about 200 total to have service considered. If you would like to email your names/addresses to Ed Feehan at the following email he can add you to the list. If your neighbors and friends would be interested be sure they contact him as well at Edroadie@yahoo.com.

**FPL Meeting held February 14th

The LGPOA invited Steve Norton, our area manager, and several other FPL representatives to update islanders on the company's plans to improve service on Little Gasparilla Island. Steve

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outlined the studies that have been completed, told us what we can expect in the future and all representatives were available for islander questions.

Steve mentioned, to keep our service as reliable as possible FPL visually inspects the island 2 times a year and after an outage.

Currently all trees within 10 feet of power lines are being trimmed to prevent downed limbs on the lines. Estimated completion for trimming is at the end of March. Keep in mind FPL does not trim around phone lines.

They just finished pole testing on the island as well. The testing determines, depending on its condition, if they will treat, reinforce or replace the pole. These inspections are on an 8-year recycle plan. The installation of the new poles will begin in the next 3 months, most of which are located on the north end of the island.

Several islanders mentioned underground lines as a solution to the problems we encounter. The representatives explained that FPL is an overhead power company. Any underground wires are the financial responsibility of the homeowner. If several homeowners got together it would definitely reduce the cost. The best time to go underground would be before the above repairs are completed because FPL considers the age of the equipment in your cost. If you and your neighbors are interested you can contact FPL for a quote.

Who should you contact at FPL? For power outages call 1-800-468-8243. Jane Wolford at 941-423-4838 handles non-emergency requests. These include new service construction, underground line quotes, lines that need attention from overgrowth and wildlife concerns.

To protect the lines on your property in the future please request a "Right tree, Right Place" brochure from Jane.

FPL is also researching reliability projects for implementation soon...stay tuned to the Coconut Telegraph for future plans.

****Great American Cleanup April 1st!**

We are looking for groups of people to remove garbage from our mangroves, the inner- island and also from the beach. Larger garbage will be accepted at Eldred's Marina on the 1st. (No appliances or TVs). Volunteers who sign up in advance will receive a T-Shirt provided by Keep Charlotte Beautiful.

How can you help?

1. You can individually pick up empty and drop off full bags of garbage beginning March 21st at LGI Carts from 9am-noon. Each bag needs a form completed regarding its' contents. They're easy to fill out and important because the information collected helps the county continue the clean up.

2. All week starting on the 21st of March, a group of volunteers will concentrate on bagged garbage a couple hours a day. We will walk the mangroves on the bay side at low tide. Contact me at twrhonda@gmail.com if you want to help! It's really fun and even if you collect only 1 bag you are truly making a difference!

3. On Saturday, April 1st, another group of volunteers are needed to help collect and transport garbage across the bay to Eldred's Marina from 8 until noon. Volunteers are needed to:

- Help unload garbage and collect forms at Eldred's.
- Provide boat transportation for the collected waste to the dumpster at Eldred's.
- Comb lots, mangroves and the beach.

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- Provide carts and trailers to haul collected waste to the boats.

4. If you know of a problem area on the island that needs attention, please let us know at lgicarts@gmail.com.

If you can participate, please visit the volunteer section at www.lgpoa.org or email either of the above email addresses. Be sure to leave your name, email, dates you can help, the type of help you can provide and don't forget shirt sizes for you and your helpers! Any questions...call 941-999-7788.

****Mark your Calendar!**

The Spring 2017 Annual LGPOA Membership Meeting and picnic will be held Saturday, April 8 @ 10am at the Placida Beach Condos. Bring your chair and a smile!

Please consider offering your time and energy to assist with this year's picnic. Contact Social Committee Chair Debbie Munholland at dkmphotos@earthlink.net.

****Notice of LGPOA Bi-annual Elections:**

LGPOA Board seats for Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 are up for election. The current board would like to request board candidate statements from LGPOA members who live in these particular districts to replace board members whose terms will expire.

If you live in any of the districts outlined below and would like to serve on the LGPOA Board of Directors, please e-mail a written statement introducing yourself and state what experience you bring and why you would like to serve on the LGPOA Board. Statements will be posted on the LGPOA website and e-mailed to all LGPOA members. Elections will take place immediately following the LGPOA Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 8th at 10 am at the Placida Beach Condos.

Please submit to LGPOA Secretary, Mary Lou Davidson, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com. Below, please find a list of addresses that pertain to each of these districts.

LGPOA Address/Districts

District 1 8000 – 8288

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

District 5 9140 – 9394

District 7 9420 – 9646 excluding: 9494, 9498, 9502

****LGPOA Annual Membership Drive**

Current LGPOA memberships will expire on April 30, 2017, the last day of the LGPOA fiscal year. We celebrate our annual meeting and picnic at this time each year to maximize member participation. This period historically is when the majority of property owners are on island and available to attend and support the LGPOA.

Last year the LGPOA launched an on-line membership renewal tool to increase efficiency, reduce waste and costs. This year, based on islander feedback, we will offer two ways to renew your membership.

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We welcome your on-line renewal at www.lgpoa.org/membership or, your paper submission via US mail. Your 2017 membership packet arrived in your mailbox in mid-February and included a return envelope.

****Membership Committee volunteer needed**
From Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson

The LGPOA is looking for a volunteer to assist during the upcoming 2017 Membership Drive.

Requirements:

- Laptop or Desktop Computer
- Internet Service
- Available 2 hours per week beginning March 1 and ending April 30
- Comfortable with light data entry into simple Google Mail list

To offer your support, please contact Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson at maryloudavidson@yahoo.com.

****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 Sherriff Ed Trentacosta 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!

****Environmental Committee**

From Environmental Chair, Linda Soderquist:

Bird Nesting Season is Underway – February 1st through August 1st

Our LGI beach has become very popular! It is common to see dogs on the beach, even running up into the dunes. Shorebirds and seabirds are very sensitive to disturbance. When people, pets or vehicles approach too closely to a nest or colony, adult shorebirds will depart and leave the eggs or chicks temporarily exposed to the elements or nearby predators. On a popular beach, this may happen repeatedly, placing the eggs and young in grave danger. How can we minimize this disturbance? If you must walk your dogs on the beach, be sure they are on a leash and keep them down by the water's edge. If you cross over dunes on your way to the beach, be on the lookout for shorebird nests. Our Snowy Plovers nest out in the open. They lay three eggs that blend in very well with the sand. If you see a Plover that is floundering along, looking like it has an injured wing,

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STOP walking! This is the bird's behavior mechanism to lure you away from the eggs. Turn around and walk back the way you came. Please note where you saw the bird and call Linda at 941-270-7994. When a nest has been located by shorebird monitors it can be staked off and protected. Thank you!

Red Tide is back

We are again experiencing the effects of a red tide bloom offshore. Shorebirds, sea turtles, manatees and humans can be affected. Hopefully it will dissipate very soon and we will all breathe easier. For information on the organism that causes red tide and current blooms in local waters, follow this link: <http://myfwc.com/media/3333198/Karenia-brevi-factsheet.pdf>.

Sea Turtle Patrol help needed

We need you! During the months of May through October the beach is alive with federally protected, endangered nesting sea turtles. If you can commit to two weeks, at least, of daily, sunrise beach walking a fairly short distance to and fro, let us know! Contact Laura Dallas through email: jddal@aol.com, by telephone at 941-830-2530 or follow the Facebook page: Little Gasparilla Island Turtles and Shorebirds for information on Florida's sea turtles and upcoming events on the island.

**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:

Over the last few months CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members have completed seven units in CERT Basic Training. The CERT members have completed an overview of natural and manmade disaster types, basic fire suppression, search and rescue, and basic medical. These newly acquired skills will allow CERT members to take care of themselves and their neighbors in the event of a disaster. Our next and final unit will be March 11th right after the Fire Board Meeting. Everyone attending has done an excellent job during this course. After the final exercise is completed we will begin planning for another class.

All property owners are members of LGIFR and are encouraged to attend the Board meetings. The next Board meeting will be March 11, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the firehouse.

Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association Board and Committee names and emails can be found on the LGPOA website at www.lgpoa.org.

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

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