

August 2019, Coconut Telegraph

Important information you don't want to miss.

*LGPOA 4th of July Picnic

*Police Protection for the 4th of July

*LGIFR Update

Notice From Charlotte County

Copy of memo from CCSO:

SUBJECT: ANIMALS ON THE BEACHS OF LGI & PALM ISLAND

On June 11, 2019 there was a meeting at the Charlotte County Attorney's Office. The subject of the meeting was to clarify the prohibiting of non-service dogs, and dogs at large on Charlotte County beaches and the non-county owned beaches of Little Gasparilla Island and Palm/Knights Island.

Present at the meeting were Charlotte County Sheriff's Department - Ed Trentacosta, Charlotte County-Assistant County Attorney- Jean Stasio, Charlotte County Community Services Parks and Natural Resources- Jamie Scudera, Roger DeBruler, and Manager Tina Powell, and Charlotte County Animal Control Manager-Brian Jones.

Due to recent and repeated complaints of dogs on the beaches made by the residents of Palm Island and Little Gasparilla Island the question was posed to the Charlotte County Attorney's Office of whether Palm/Knights Island and Little Gasparilla Island are considered a public beach and if so, would make the beaches eligible for enforcement of Charlotte County Code Ordinance 98-70 Section 1-4-36. Animals prohibited in public parks, public playgrounds, public school premises, public buildings and on public beaches.

After review of County Code Ordinance 98-70 Section 1-4-36 Animals prohibited in public parks, public playgrounds, public school premises, public buildings and on public beaches, **it is the opinion of the Charlotte County**

Attorney's Office that ordinance 98-70 section 1-4-36 is limited only to the Charlotte County owned public beaches of Englewood Beach and the Port Charlotte Beach Complex. Therefore the prohibiting of animals on the beaches of Palm/Knights Island and Little Gasparilla Island would not be applicable as per the ordinance.

Charlotte County Ordinance 98-070 Section 1-4-31 Dogs running at large, continues to remain in effect as the ordinance is a county wide ordinance. In summary, it is the opinion of the Charlotte County Attorney's Office representative, that Palm/Knights Island and Little Gasparilla are not County owned beaches and thus animals **should** not be prohibited as per County ordinance section 98-70 Section 1-4-36. Charlotte County Ordinance 98-070 Section 1-4-31 - prohibiting dogs at large remains in effect which states the following;

Dog owners must, at all times, have "direct control" over their dog. Direct control is defined as the immediate and continuous physical control of the dog by means of a fence, leash, cord or chain of sufficient strength to restrain the animal(Ordinance 98-070 Section 1-4-31 is a county wide ordinance.)

Dogs are prohibited at all Charlotte County owned beaches as per Ordinance 98-70 Section 1-4-36.

LGPOA 4th of July Picnic

From Vice President, Rhonda Olson:

The picnic was held Thursday, July 4th from noon to 2pm on the Placida Condo's grass lot.

The water slide was a huge hit with kids and some adults as well. We had a huge turnout. Chief Bill counted ninety at one time and guessed one hundred forty people came by. The weather was perfect!

A huge thank you to everyone who made it happen. It's so generous of you to share your valuable time to help at an event for so many to enjoy.

****Police Protection**

From Vice President, Rhonda Olson:

The police protection that the LGPOA hires was on Little Gasparilla Island over the 4th weekend. They provided a police presence to show people we do have rules and gave warnings to people not following them.

****Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR) Update** (The LGPOA is not affiliated with the LGIFR, we just want to keep you up to date on all island activities.)

From LGIFR Fire Chief, Bill Underhill:

JELLYFISH STINGS

July has been hot, lots of people in the water. Over the past couple of weeks there have been a lot of jellyfish. Here are a couple of ways to help with their stings.

1. Using vinegar will help, plain vinegar between 105° to 115° for 30 to 45 seconds. Warm water same temperature can then be used to finish cleaning the area. Hydrocortisone cream can then be applied and an over the counter antihistamine may be taken.

2. Ammonia helps as well. In a spray bottle mix water and ammonia 50/50. It should also be 105° to 115°. Warm water can then be used to finish cleaning the area, followed by hydrocortisone cream and an antihistamine.

Do not try to scrape or rub the area, doing this will force more venom from the tentacles producing more pain and burning. Tweezers or a toothbrush used gently will help remove the tentacles without forcing more venom into the skin.

BURNING YARD WASTE

We have maintained sufficient rainfall this year so we are ok to burn when the conditions are acceptable. As always if you want help getting this done give me a call I will be glad to help.

LIGHTNING

With the thunderstorms passing by, keep in mind lightening can strike outward of 10 miles ahead of a storm. While you are out and about keep watch in all directions. If you can hear thunder you are within the strike area. If you get caught in the storm do not try to seek cover under a tree, keep moving to shelter. We have had five verified lightening strikes on the island in the past two weeks, with one causing a tree to catch fire.

Please feel free to email me at twrhonda@gmail.com with any information you'd like circulated in next month's Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of each month. The content is reviewed by board members for approval.

Rhonda Olson