

September 2019, Coconut Telegraph

Important information you don't want to miss.

- ***International Coastal Cleanup** - September, 24th - 28th 2018
- ***Island Wide Garage Sale** - November 29th (Friday after Thanksgiving)
- ***If you do need to haul your household items off island are you wondering where to dispose of them?**
- ***Kids Fishing and Marine Clinic** - moved to November 30th (Saturday after Thanksgiving)
- ***Environmental Update** - LGI Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer needed AND "Flesh eating bacteria" fact sheet.
- ***LGIFR Update** - Bill's island update

Below are links to information to help you prepare for Tropical Storms and Hurricanes:

<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/emergencymgmt/Pages/Hurricanes.aspx>
<https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

***International Coastal Cleanup** – September, 24th - 28th 2019

It's that time of the year again. Islanders can come, help collect and transport items to a dumpster at Eldred's Marina. The dumpster will only be at the marina on Saturday the 28th, but you can help starting on the 24th.

We are looking for volunteers to remove garbage from our mangroves, the inner-island and also from the beach from 9am until noon, Tuesday through Saturday. If you want to work with others, meet at the golf cart shop at 9 am on Saturday, otherwise there will be a volunteer at the dumpsters to help you unload until noon.

You can drop any full bags from 9-noon at the golf cart shop starting on the 24th. Deric will have the forms needed and bags for you to use as well.

Volunteers will receive a T-shirt, as long as you sign up in advance! If you can

participate, please visit the volunteer section at twrhonda@gmail.com. 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](tel:941-999-7788).

If you know of any bad litter or dumping areas on the island please let us know at the email or phone number above.

***Island Wide Garage Sale** - mark your calendars for the Friday after Thanksgiving.

The Island Wide Garage Sale will be held November 29th from 9am to 1pm.

The last few years we've had so much fun. The people selling sold treasures to those of us traveling the island to see what was for sale.

Anyone can have a sale, just email us your house number and any items you'd like listed or featured. (Submit by November 22nd please.) You can recycle your unwanted items to someone that can use them and make some money for yourself at the same time! It's easier then hauling the items off the island, right? We will put a sign on the main sand path advertising your house number to make it easy to find.

Anyone can go to the sales as well! We will email the list of garage sales and items to POA members the week before. They will also be posted on the island bulletin boards for everyone to see.

We need a volunteer to put up and make the signs Thursday night. In the past I've used garage sale signs from Home Depot and put island house numbers on them. If you have a better idea that would be great!

Please contact us with information regarding your sale, if you'd like to be the "sign person" and any questions at twrhonda@gmail.com.

***If you do need to haul your household items off island are you wondering where to dispose of them?**

Electronic waste consists of TV's, computer monitors, desktop/laptop computers, keyboards, microwave ovens, printers, radios, telephones and video/stereo

equipment. The transfer location and address is: 5225 Redwood Road, Placida. Here is a link to their details and hours of operation: [E-waste](#).

Appliances, yard waste and household items can be taken to Charlotte County West Mini Transfer Station located at 7070 Environmental Way near Home Depot.

Be prepared to provide the attendant with proof of your island property address when using both locations.

***Kids Fishing and Marine Clinic moved to Thanksgiving weekend. Saturday, November 30th, 2019.**

The Kids' Marine and Fishing Clinic will be held November 24th from 10 am until noon.

Participants that sign up in advance will receive a fishing pole and a tackle box provided by Fish Florida.

- Who? Kids of all ages are invited.
- When? 10 am - noon, to save your spot call [941-999-7788](tel:941-999-7788) or email twrhonda@gmail.com.
- Where? Please meet at the Hideaway gazebo by the pool and building "A" at 10am.
- Why? Learn about knot tying, casting, fish species and the importance of environment stewardship as it relates to fish, turtles, manatees and all sea life. We will collect and observe critters from in the sea grass and have tons of FUN!

If you'd like to come and help you are more than welcome! We need a craft leader for the kids' folders, plus others! Please let us know.

Water shoes are a must. Bug spray is a great idea. The event will happen rain or shine.

****Environmental**

From Environmental Chair, Linda Soderquist:

LGI Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer needed

For nearly 20 years I have been involved with water quality monitoring locally and the last 10 years right off my dock on LGI. I am ready to retire and hoping to find other islanders to take over this important work based right here on LGI.

Read about the water monitoring project at <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/aquatic-preserve/content/charlotte-harbor-estuaries-volunteer-water-quality-monitoring-network> . The time commitment of water testing and collecting samples involves about an hour on the first Monday of every month at sunrise. The samples then need to be taken across to the mainland and dropped off at Cedar Point by Lemon Bay High School.

I can help train someone to use the equipment and protocols, and the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves will continue training until you are comfortable with the process. It is interesting, important, volunteer work and it would be wonderful to have someone continue the monitoring the waters around our island.

If you are interested or need more information, please contact me, Linda Soderquist at 941 270 7994, or linist@hotmail.com.

Flesh Eating Bacteria

Social media has been buzzing with misinformation about so called “flesh eating bacteria”. This publication (link below) will give you a factual overview of this bacteria found in warm, brackish saltwater. Please give it a read and be in the know. We still have several weeks of hot weather before the first cold front, so the warmer water will continue to have different strains of bacteria present.

This fact sheet is from the Florida Sea Grant organization. They have many other informative articles on a variety of topics. https://www.flseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/SGEF_228_fact-sheet_web.pdf.

****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:

We continue to remind everyone for storm/hurricane preparedness. Be mindful of water, medications, non perishable foods, generator gas, ropes and tarps. Everybody knows the preparation drill, it's peak time and getting busy in the tropics.

I've had lots of questions about the dark water. What we are currently seeing is not red tide or Lake Okeechobee discharges. It is simple rain run off from the Myakka and Peace Rivers and it is called tannic acid. Tannic acid is a deposit left in nutgalls by insects on oak trees. It is used medically as well as a flavoring in some food and drinks, so no it will not make you sick if you get it on you or consume it. Water testing is still being completed in our area and there currently are no signs of red tide or harmful bacteria in the local waters.

FPL has again hired a contractor to trim trees around the power lines. They started on the northern end of the island. Please stay clear of them while they work on this task, a falling limb or an accidentally cut power line striking someone is a bad day for all. Please stay away.

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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