

## **MAY 2021, Coconut Telegraph**

Checkout this issue with information for the upcoming summertime. Don't miss being "in the know!"

**\*\*Police Protection and Missing Channel Marker**

**\*\*LGPOA Annual Membership Drive**

**\*\*4<sup>th</sup> of July Activities**

**\*\*Dock Association President List for LGPOA**

**\*\*List of LGPOA Accomplishments**

**\*\*Leash Laws**

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### **Channel Marker 6 Down**

From Deputy William Prummell:

A Charlotte County representative notified me that down marker #6 has been addressed, and its replacement has been contracted out to a company to re-erect. At this time, no timetable could be provided due to the contractor doing the work as they receive orders and as weather permits.

Several other markers throughout the county are in need of repair/replacement likely due to the large increase in marine/boating activity this past year. So there are several water projects being addressed and the county will keep us informed as details come in.

### **\*\* Police Protection and Missing Channel Marker**

From President/Navigation Chair, Richard Leydon, Jr.:

LGI hired extra police protection over the Easter weekend and fortunately there were no problems to report.

Regarding the channel markers, the missing markers have been reported to the county and they indicated it has been given to their contractor to do the work. So hopefully soon we will have new markers, COVID-19 has just slowed the process.

### **\*\* LGPOA Annual Membership Drive**

From Membership Chair, Dawn Bokar:

Thank you to those who have updated memberships online or mailed them in. It's never too late to renew or join the Little Gasparilla Island Property Owners Association. Send your completed form and \$40 check to LGPOA, P.O. Box 3643, Placida FL 33946 or go online to [www.lgpoa.org/membership](http://www.lgpoa.org/membership) and complete the form and payment. Your island

board works hard to bring you updated information about important island happenings as they receive it. Memberships expire on April 30, 2021, so don't miss out on getting the Coconut Telegraph delivered right to your inbox.

Thank you all, for your support of the LGPOA!

[www.LGPOA.org/membership](http://www.LGPOA.org/membership)

## **\*\* 4<sup>th</sup> of July Activities**

From Vice President Rhonda Olson:

### **LGPOA Bucket of Litter - Fun on the Fourth**

Children up to age 12 can participate in the Bucket of Litter - Fun on the Fourth event. Bring a bucket of litter collected from golf cart paths, the beach or the mangroves to LGI Carts at 2 pm on July 4th to receive your choice of gifts from a gift table. Each participant's name and phone number will be entered into a drawing for a grand prize \$25 gift card as well.

The grand prize winner will be drawn and announced at 5 pm after the national anthem and before the start of the golf cart parade. Show up if you can or we'll contact you to deliver the grand prize.

### **From LGI Carts**

*\*LGI Carts is not affiliated with the LGPOA, we just want to keep you up to date on all island activities.)*

Line up starts at 4 pm on Sunday, July 4th at LGI Carts, the parade begins at 5 pm. There will be trophies awarded for the most creative, island theme and patriotic carts! Can't wait to see all the creativity!

## **\*\*Dock Association President List for LGPOA**

From Membership Chair, Dawn Bokar:

Hey, island neighbors! As Membership Director, I often receive calls or emails from Realtors, title companies and attorney's asking for the contact name and number of a Dock Association President. Requests are made typically because a property is transferring and an estoppel letter is needed or to inquire if dock association dues are current. I would like to create a database with the dock association name, the contact name, phone number and email for your dock association president. This will allow for quick and easy reference as these requests come in.

Please send your dock association's information to [membership@lgpoa.org](mailto:membership@lgpoa.org) Your help is greatly appreciated!

## **\*\*Leash Laws**

From Deputy William Prummell:

In June of 2019 a meeting was held 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. Representatives of the Sheriff's Office, Charlotte County Community Services Parks & Natural Resources, Charlotte County Animal Control and the County Attorney's Office were present.

Due to the questions/complaints/concerns of 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 beaches apply to the enforcement of Charlotte County Code Ordinance 98-70 Section 1-4-36 which states animals are prohibited in public parks, public playgrounds, public school premises, public buildings and on public beaches.

After review, it was decided and the opinion of the Charlotte County Attorneys Office that this ordinance applies to Charlotte County **owned** public beaches such as the beaches at Englewood Beach and Port Charlotte Beach Complex. Therefore, the prohibiting of animals on the public beaches of Palm/Knights Island and Little Gasparilla Island would not be applicable as per the ordinance. **However**, 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. Charlotte County Ordinance 98-070 Section 1-4-31- prohibiting dogs at large applies to the islands/beaches and remains in effect. This ordinance 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.*

In recent months, I, Deputy Prummell have initiated contact with Charlotte County Animal Control reference to re-occurring issues related to dogs. Owners of these chronic loose pets were visited by a representative of animal control and myself and educated regarding the leash law/ordinance.

I ask that if this continues to please contact Charlotte County Animal Control, they know they can contact me or any other CCSO Marine Patrol Deputy to assist with their

response to the islands. Their phone number is (941)833-5690.

As far as non-residents or non-repeat violators who may not know the law; during my routine patrols, I educate and verbally warn those regarding their loose dogs. They are told their dog is allowed on the beach but that the leash law applies while they're on the beach/islands. This is very important as sea turtle nesting season approaches and if the same person is seen violating this ordinance, I will be compiling a report to assist Animal Control in identifying violators and penalties may follow. I will continue to do my best to assist animal control and residents with this issue.

### **\*\*2021 Annual Meeting Minutes**

The board held the LGPOA annual meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Most board members attended in person and all others attended by phone. The minutes can be found [here](#).

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Please feel free to email me at [robinturner63@gmail.com](mailto:robinturner63@gmail.com) with any information you would like to see in the next month's Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of each month. The content is reviewed by board members for approval.

Robin Turner-Grimshaw