

JUNE 2021, Coconut Telegraph

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

**** LGPOA Annual Membership Drive**

****4th of July Activities**

**** Environmental Update**

LGPOA Accomplishments

From Vice President Rhonda Olson:

Please find below a list of LGPOA accomplishments in chronological order.

As one of its first actions, the LGPOA hired an attorney to resist efforts to establish a private sewer company on LGI (which would have enabled the construction of high density tourist facilities). Rezoning of the island happened in 2013 to single family residential only (see details below) to stop such tourist facilities.

High Speed Channel to Island: The LGPOA and the Navigation Committee were instrumental in acquiring both the north and south 25 mph access channels to LGI across Placida Bay after the state imposed a 5 mph zone on the entire Bay. Without this, we would be crossing from the mainland to the island at 5 mph. If you notice a marker down or damaged, please contact the LGPOA.

Island Zoning: The LGPOA worked alongside the LGI Advisory Committee to draft a county zoning ordinance for LGI that rezoned the entire island from residential multi-family tourist (RMFT, allowing Multi-family properties high-rise hotels) to single family residential only. This ordinance passed in 2013.

LGPOA worked hand in hand with the initial Fire Board and an Advisory Committee to create LGIFR, Inc., our on-island fire and EMS Corporation. More info at www.lgifr.com

Island Docks: The LGPOA worked with the island Dock Committee for over 3 ½ years to save existing LGI docks after the state Department of Environmental Protection threatened to fine or remove those which were found in violation of its rules. The LGPOA paid for a lobbyist to assist the bill, drafted by the Dock Committee, through the legislative process. The successful outcome of the bill was due to the efforts of the Dock Committee and POA. The new law created a mechanism for docks to become compliant, avoid past due fines and allowed for future expansion. The Dock Bill was signed into law on June 13, 2014.

Island Roads: While most of the north/south travel ways are private pathways, the POA has, at times, tried to improve them where possible and educate islanders of their private nature. In a recent combined effort with LGIFR we are currently repairing trouble spots on the north/south easement

Coconut Telegraph: LGPOA's email newsletter has kept members informed of issues of importance including environmental and LGIFR updates, volunteer opportunities and social events.

Exotic Plant Removal: The LGPOA started a program that provides an environmentally friendly herbicide free to its members for use in eliminating Brazilian Peppers and Australian Pines.

Social Events: The LGPOA supports engaging social events including Fishing Tournaments, Kid's Marine and Fishing Clinics, Fourth of July Family Picnics, Golf Cart Poker Runs and Island Wide Garage Sales.

Environmental: The LGPOA in coordination with LGI Carts, International Coastal Cleanup and the Great American Cleanup has successfully organized numerous volunteer events to comb the beach and mangroves resulting in the removal of tons of debris and discarded items from the island.

Following Hurricane Irma, the LGPOA actively engaged with Charlotte County Health Department to monitor the status of the removal of the septic tank that was buried in the sand following the destruction of the "pink house". It has since been removed. Persistent phone calls and e-mails to representatives and various agencies made by islanders and board members past and present helped persuade Charlotte County to provide LGI with assistance. Once FEMA approved funding for "off road" clean-up efforts, the Charlotte County Department of Public Works was assigned to LGI to operate an environmental chipper to further diminish tree debris. The LGPOA Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the efforts of numerous island volunteers, including builders, contractors and utility providers who pooled their efforts and offered their time, energy and equipment to manage all remaining debris left strewn across the beach by the storm. See pictures at <https://lgpoa.org/post-irma-beach-clean-up-success/nggallery/thumbnails>.

The LGPOA approved the development of a refrigerator magnet for each homeowner to educate islanders and guests on how to ensure public health through the proper disposal of pet waste and address environmental and etiquette concerns regarding pets on our beaches. Important island phone numbers were also included.

The LGPOA continues to work proactively with Deputy Billy Prummell from the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department to prevent golf cart theft, speeding, vandalism, unruly behavior and underage drinking. The addition of police officers contracted by the LGPOA to patrol during peak times has helped to diminish these challenges, creating a more pleasant and safe environment.

Communications: Over the last few years, the LGPOA has invested in updating its technology to streamline administrative systems and improve member communications. A new website and technical upgrades now allows us to manage our own content in real time, receive electronic membership payments, invite volunteers and field general questions from constituents.

Administrative: In 2016, the LGPOA appointed a committee to propose and make amendments of the original LGPOA by-laws, which were written in 2004. The intention was to have the by-laws reflect the way the LGPOA has functioned since its inception and integrate the use of available technology to reduce costs. Proposed amendments were passed at the 2017 annual meeting.

Island Roads and Access: The committee appointed to research strategies for long term island access will resume conversations with Charlotte County Chairman Bill Truex. For several years, the committee has been engaged in ongoing conversations with Charlotte County, affected property owners and builders to help negotiate solutions where the existing north/south cart path runs through private property. In 2018-19 the LGPOA negotiated a bypass of the closed north/south pathway connecting Swenson and Grand. The LGPOA purchased and planted replacement shrubbery for our generous neighbors who allow the access.

Red Tide: The LGPOA has been working with the Roskamp Institute in Sarasota to study the effects of red tide. And we are also participating with HABscope, sharing real time densities of our waters to forecast respiratory irritations and current conditions.

County Landing Project: The LGPOA has been in communication with Commissioner Truex regarding the County Landing Area Project, emphasizing a barge landing and parking. County surveys were shared with membership and islanders for their input.

Sewer Project: The LGPOA continues to educate members on the sewer project proposed by Environmental Utilities for LGI.

**** LGPOA Annual Membership Drive**

From Membership Chair Dawn Bokar:

Thank you to those who have sent in memberships in the last month. It's never too late to join or renew your LGPOA membership, but to continue receiving the Coconut Telegraph directly to your inbox, you'll have to do so by June 30, 2021. Renewing or joining after June 30 will add you back into the database for the mailings. If you're not sure what your membership status is, email me at dawnbokar@gmail.com. As always, you can join or renew at www.LGPOA.org/membership or mail your membership form and check in.

**** 4th 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.)*

The 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!

**** Environmental Update**

From Vice President Rhonda Olson:

Mosquito Alert!

Empty out containers that may contain water around your yard at least once a week. Put holes into containers that regularly hold water to allow them to drain. Check and clean out gutters. Flush out or treat birdbaths and bromeliads. We get results from Mosquito Control when we call to report the mosquitoes are bad on the island. They will come out and check and then spray if needed. The number is 941-764-4370.

Sea Turtles

Please limit your time on the beach at night – sea turtles are sensitive to lights and activity on the beach and if disturbed, may leave a nesting area without laying eggs. This is called a “false crawl.”

Please remember to fill in any holes dug on the beach and remove all furniture, umbrellas, shade tents (and the skeletal framework) off the beach each night as well as all trash. Let's all work together to keep our island beautiful and productive for the wildlife we are so fortunate to have living with us!

Injured Wildlife?

Please contact the Wildlife Center of Venice <http://wildlifecenterofvenice.org> at 941-484-9657.

Please feel free to email me at 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