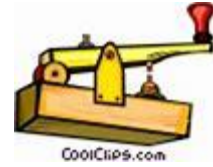




## Coconut Telegraph September 2022



Keep up-to-date with “island happenings” by checking out this issue.

- \*\*Thank you, Rhonda
- \*\*What is this?
- \*\*Police protection
- \*\* Disposing of household items off island
- \*\* Environmental Update
- \*\* Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR) Update
- \*\*Sewer Project Update
- \*\*Status of Eldred’s Marina
- \*\*Letter to county commissioners about barge operation
- \*\*Navigation
- \*\*Sam Dixon
- \*\*LGPOA minutes on webpage – <https://lgpoa.org>
- \*\*Thank you, Rhonda** by Richard Leydon



The LGPOA board and I would like to thank Rhonda Olson for her many years of service to the LGPOA. She was a tireless organizer and promoter of all things fun for the island. She personally took time to fill up dumpsters full of trash from the mangroves and beaches whenever there was a coastal cleanup. More importantly to me, as a friend and fellow board member, she took the reins when my health took a turn for the worse. She was always there to make sure that things continued to run smoothly while accomplishing our goals. She cares deeply for the island and always will. Thank you for all you have done to keep Little Gasparilla the island we love.



**\*\*What Is This? Diodon holocanthus is known as Balloon fish** by Laurie Tremblay

The balloon fish has an average size of 8-14 inches, and has long spines over the entire body. It feeds on mollusks, crabs, and urchins. They can be found in tropical waters living in grassy areas, coral reefs, and mangroves. This fish will take in water when frightened, thus expanding its size. The spines will stand erect intimidating potential predators. Relatives are the porcupinefish and burrfish (shorter spines).

**\*\*Police Protection**

Police presence over the 4th of July indicated that all was quiet during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Fortunately, nothing to report.

While it is never going to be perfect, we continue to believe that LGPOA funds spent on police protection during peak times does in fact pay off. We continue to work closely with officers to build the best possible relationship so that island residents and their homes are protected. Be assured that officers will be on patrol for the upcoming Labor Day weekend.

**\*\* Disposing of household items off island**



Do you need to haul your household items off the island?

Electronic waste consists of TV's, computer monitors, desktop/laptop computers, keyboards, microwave ovens, printers, radios, telephones, and video/stereos. These can be dropped off at the Charlotte County West Mini Transfer Station located at 7070 Environmental Way, Englewood (near Home Depot).

**Make sure you identify yourself as an LGI resident, otherwise you may be refused these items.**

**(941.697.0020)**

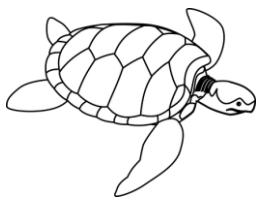
Recycled materials, appliances, furniture, batteries, motor oils, and household items can be taken to the Charlotte County West Mini Transfer Station located at 7070 Environmental Way, Englewood (near Home Depot). (941.764.4360)

**Be prepared to provide the attendant with proof of your island property address (water or electric bill). Closed on Mondays and Sundays!**

[Solid Waste | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](http://charlottecountyfl.gov)

**\*\* Environmental Update** by Pede Fraser

### **Sea Turtles**



Turtle nests began hatching in late June. It is imperative that lights are OUT on the beach as hatchlings can and will disorient with any artificial light. They head away from the ocean and toward any house with lighting, phone flashes/lights or flashlights.

What can you do to help this turtle hatching season?

1. Please turn off exterior lights (and pull shades/draw curtains) on your beach front homes.
2. Use only red filters for flashlights or phones. Use the phone app.
3. Cover any holes that you may dig or that you see on the beach.
4. Remove all beach furniture and take away any trash.
5. Keep your dog leashed on the beach and remove your dog's excrement as well.
6. Do your best to help with rental houses on the island as the renters come and go quickly and re-education with each rental is important.



**Mosquito population on the rise!**

A mosquito's attraction to humans is complex. Mosquitoes are attracted to the carbon dioxide coming from the breath and pores of humans. In addition, some mosquito species are attracted to certain fragrances and colors. If you wish to be less attractive to mosquitoes, try using products that are unscented (i.e., hair spray, deodorant, soap, etc.) and light-colored clothing. You can also try wearing commercially available, proven mosquito repellents. The most proven repellent is Ndi ethyl-meta-toluamide or DEET. Be sure to read the entire label before using.

Charlotte County has over 37 species of mosquitoes! The county does do aerial spraying as well as ground spraying from an ATV. We have learned that the ground spraying is much more effective. When mosquito populations get out of control, call Charlotte County Mosquito Control and leave a message requesting ground spraying **941-764-4370**.

**\*\* 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:

Things are operating smoothly right now. Thank you.

**Hurricane Season Reminder**

If you stay on the island for a small storm, have what you need to survive for a few days. Medications, spare oxygen if needed for CPAP, or other breathing device, first aid kit, water, food, gas and generator for 3 days minimum. If you are asked to evacuate the island, do so in a timely manner. If you are asked to leave by LGIFR, Charlotte County Fire or the Sheriff it is for a reason and not to be taken lightly.

**\*\*Sewer Project Update** by Barb Dwyer

As most of you have heard, the Public Service Commission (PSC) denied the certificate for Environmental Utilities (EU) to install a sewer system on Little Gasparilla, Don Pedro & Knight Islands at their meeting on June 7, 2022. The final order was posted on July 8, 2022.

EU filed a motion for reconsideration of the decision on July 22, 2022. The standard of review for reconsideration of a Commission Order is whether the motion identifies a point of fact or law

that the Commission overlooked or failed to consider in rendering the order. Granting a reconsideration must be based upon specific factual matters set forth in the record and susceptible to review.

On June 28, 2022, Charlotte County (CC) Commissioner William Truex submitted a letter in support of EU's request. This letter was posted well after the record was closed in February 2022 and after the PSC voted to deny the certificate on June 7, 2022.

On July 29, 2022, the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) objected to EU's attempted use of the unauthorized June 28th CC letter. The OPC filed a response solely for the purpose of protecting the record in this case and for principles of fairness in Florida PSC proceedings. This letter is not within the record of the case & cannot form the basis for reconsideration. No party was given the opportunity to conduct discovery, depose the author, or conduct cross-examination on the assertions. The OPC requests that the EU motion is denied.

On August 26, 2022, the PSC Staff submitted their recommendation to the PSC Commissioners. The staff disagreed with EU that there are points of fact or law that the Commission overlooked or failed to consider in denying EU's application. EU has offered only reargument to support their claims. The PSC staff recommends that EU's reconsideration should be denied.

The PSC Commissioners will vote at their Conference on September 8, 2022.

You can view the complete file at [floridapsc.com](http://floridapsc.com) under Docket #20200226.

**\*\* Status of Eldred's Marina**

Eldred's Marina is under contract for sale, but the buyer is not identified, nor are any future plans known at this time.

**\*\*Letter to commissioners**

A letter from the LPGOA has been sent to county commissioners about the barge issue. We have clarified that we do not need a county run barge service, but the island does want mainland access from the county ramp to land and load.

**\*\*Navigation** by Richard Leydon

**Number one marker into the main Island channel.** I am working with the County to try and have this marker removed. The red marker for our channel is constantly mistaken as part of the ICW. I have personally seen large cruisers go between our markers and then head back to the ICW. It has made for a dangerous scenario entering or leaving our channel into the ICW. Please be careful.

**\*\*Sam Dixon,** of Englewood, FL, passed away on Friday, August 12. Sam is survived by his wife, Suzanne; son, Taylor; his mother, Marian Dixon; and nine siblings. The family moved to Placida, FL in the early 1970's and became a part of Eldred's Marina. At an early age, Sam was involved in shrimping and mullet fishing along with his brothers. He was incredibly involved with Little Gasparilla Island and the residents. He ran the barge, drove pilings, installed septic tanks, cleared lots, and did yard work for the islanders. He married Suzanne Mattox, of Winter Haven in 1998 at our island chapel. Sam and Suzanne helped with the management of Eldred's Marina for many years. Sam loved to entertain all people with the telling of exciting and creative stories. He will be missed by all who knew him.



Please feel free to email Laurie Tremblay at [jltremblay125@gmail.com](mailto:jltremblay125@gmail.com) with any information you would like to publish in the Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of each month. The content is reviewed by board members for approval before publication. Thank you.