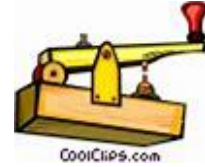




March 2023

Coconut Telegraph



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Annual meeting on April 15 at 11AM. A picnic lunch will be provided!

Hope to see you then!!! (Location of the meeting be will announced later)



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LGPOA Annual Membership Drive Dawn Bokar, Membership Chair

Keep an eye on your mailbox in March for the annual LGPOA membership drive mailing. It is simple to join or renew using the form and sending a check or by going online to www.lgpoa.org/membership and paying securely with PayPal. Annual dues are still only \$40 a year. We are looking forward to a year where we can increase social activities, re-activate other committees, keep islanders up to date on things that affect all owners, and continue getting the island back to the special place it was, pre-lan. If you have joined or renewed since January, your membership is good for the 2023/24 membership. Thank you for your continued support of the Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association.

Annual Election of Directors: Joe Bokar

The Directors representing odd numbered districts shall be elected in odd numbered years, and likewise, the Directors representing even numbered districts shall be elected in even numbered years.

For this year, 2023, Districts 1,3,5,7 are up for election.

Current positions are held by:

- District 1: 8000-8288 LGI Laurie Tremblay (Coconut telegraph Editor)
- District 3: 8594-8888, excluding 8546, 8554, 8558, 8562, 8566, 8574, 8582, 8590, and excluding even numbers 8802-8818 Deric Flom (vice president)
- District 5: 9140-9394 Joe Bokar (secretary)
- District 7: 9420-9646 Pede Fraser (at large)

If you are a member in one of these districts, and are interested in running for directorship of your district (including the incumbents), notify Joe Bokar (secretary) by email (joseph.bokar@case.edu) of your intention, ASAP, but no later than **March 5, 2023** (40 days prior to the meeting). Regardless of the existing director's intent, if more than one member in a district volunteers, an election will be held in that district. The election will be done by email between March 6 and the Annual Meeting. For each district holding an election, the Secretary shall then send by email to all members in the district the list of all candidates for Director in that district no later than 30 days in advance of the annual meeting.

Determining Your District by Address Number:

#1 - 8000 – 8288

#2 - 8292 – 8538 plus 8542, 8550, 8556, 8560, 8564, 8568, 8570, 8576, 8578, 8586

#3 - 8594 – 8888 excluding 8546, 8554, 8558, 8562, 8566, 8574, 8582, 8590, and excluding even numbers 8802 – 8818 (even #'s)

#4 - 8890 – 9134 plus 8802 -8818 (even #'s)

#5 - 9140 – 9394

#6 - Hideaway Bay Condominiums

#7 - 9420 – 9646 excluding 9494, 9498, 9502 #8 - 9660 – 9908 plus 9494, 9498, 9502



Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR)

From Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue Auxiliary:

From Fire Chief, Bill Underhill:

Remember, it is dry and breezy. If you are going to burn stay with the fire until it is completely out and keep a hose close by. Any unattended fires will be put out if found.

Spring break is here. Boat traffic is getting heavy. Sandbars and grass flats may be assaulted by unfamiliar operators. Everyone be careful out there!

Homeowners, please inform your contractors and renters to drive golfcarts and machinery carefully and not to speed. No one should be driving on the beach, except fire/rescue, law enforcement, or Charlotte County Parks and Wildlife workers.

Please do not interfere with workers removing the island debris. Their job and their time are important, so stay out of their way! Do not ask them to move or stop, so you can get around.



Spring Break tips...Police Protection

As we prepare for our Spring Break visitors, islanders and visiting guests will be reassured by the additional police officers hired by the LGPOA. Each officer that is new to our unique island is briefed by Billy Prummell and receives an island customs orientation from an LGPOA board member.

What can you do to help if you have guests?

1. Are adults staying at your home to supervise your younger guests?
2. We all know litter occurs, sometimes accidentally, please encourage your guests to pick up after themselves and others.
3. If your guests have pets, provide or ask them to bring waste bags for animal clean up. Remind them to bring their leashes!

4. Carts need at least a flashlight for travel at night on the island. Encourage people to drive slowly and be mindful of other islanders.

5. Store fishing equipment out of site and secure your golf carts.

We know these "island customs" are expected on the island, but visitors may not.

Please share them to make the island a better place for everyone!

Island Debris

Please get all your debris out to the right of way to ensure a pickup by the FDEM/FEMA group. After they leave, you will be on your own to pay for and remove any debris! Taylor and Evan may be the only option. Do not pile up debris on the paths, after FDEM/FEMA have left the island.

It is your responsibility!

Meeting with County Commissioners

Barb Dwyer

I attended the Charlotte County (CC) Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Regular & Land Use meeting on Feb 28th to report on the proposed change to density limits with regards to the Compact Growth Mix Use (CGMU) designation on the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Element of CC Comprehensive Plan. TCP-22-02.

This meeting was well attended by concerned citizens of CC - over 200 people. The Chamber was full as well as a secondary viewing room & the hallway. Many arguments were presented by those who spoke. Some of the concerns discussed were:

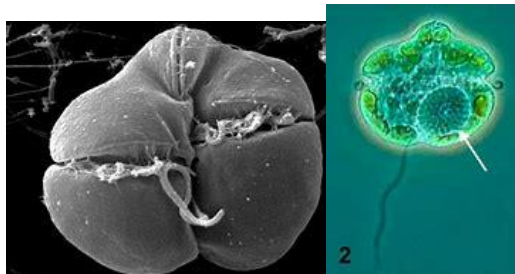
- Can the current evacuation routes handle increased density?
- Has storm water management been considered with regards to increased density?
- Can the existing Sewer treatment plants handle increased density?
- Major infrastructure changes are needed with increased population growth. Changes & improvements take 5 -10 years typically.
- Major cities like Tampa, Miami, San Francisco, Chicago have population densities of ~13 units per acre. Do we really want to become a major population center & lose the character of the area?
- Water quality has deteriorated over the last 20 years. What will happen with increased density?
- The habitat for juvenile tarpon & snook in the streams, creeks, tributaries & rivers will be affected by increased development. This will have a negative effect on tourism dollars & the sport fishing industry.
- Do we really want to increase density limits in a Coastal High Hazard zone?
- Development is needed, but it should be controlled.

The biggest lesson learned was that this proposal was in fact to lower the density limit from 65 density units (current limit in all of CC) to 15 density units per acre in West County. This is the area west of the Myakka River & Charlotte Harbor. However, properties that have the CGMU FLUM designation approved prior to the effective date shall be allowed to develop 65 dwelling units per acre via plan amendments & the Planned Development Rezoning process.

This designation currently applies to only 3 parcels. The West Village Town Center at 776 & Gasparilla Rd, the Fisheries property & a small parcel on Placida Rd in Grove City. Each of these properties are under the proposed density limit at present. Any future change would have to be presented to the board and subject to open public discussion prior to a vote.

There are safeguards in place that would make it nearly impossible to achieve even 15 units per acre. These include Height restrictions, Parking requirements, Storm water drainage requirements, Building codes. In addition, incentive density cannot be moved in the Coastal High Hazard area.

The BCC voted to lower the density limit to 15 units per acre in West County unanimously.



What Is This?

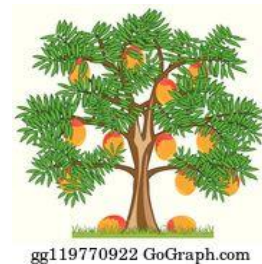
Laurie Tremblay

Red tide or *Karenia brevis*, is a microscopic alga bloom (higher than normal concentration). It produces a toxin that may harm or kill marine organisms and affect humans and their pets. There are records of it occurring as early as the 1840s on the Gulf Coast. Respiratory irritations, such as coughing and sneezing are common. Some people may suffer skin irritations and burning eyes from swimming in red tide water. Conditions such as nutrients, salinity, wind speed and direction will determine how long it will last.

Fishing Report

Captain Bryce Greene

Yes, red tide is here, but it is patchy and fishing is still productive! Try to catch bait on the far side of any patches of red tide you notice, then fish the direction away from the passes and red tide you may have encountered. As I have been driving around, I have noticed there are not any dead snook, redfish and trout; which means they are held up and concentrated in clean water. If you cannot catch bait, grab your favorite lures, and start working the flats and back bays. Low winter tides are over, so more exploring can be done in the shallows. Flats fishing will only get better and tarpon fishing is right around the corner!



Mango March

Brian Callahan

Great news from Bob at the Island Garden Club! Every month the club will be giving away plants to island residents and club members. This month is Mango March! Contact Bob if you would like a mango tree.

Please feel free to email Laurie Tremblay at 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.