



COCONUT TELEGRAPH

November 2024

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Regarding Debris Removal

I have been reaching out to both county and state staff since the day after Hurricane Helene hit about the debris problem and for help getting rid of it.

I am going to keep it short and tell you at the state level I don't see any assistance coming our way. They told me the situation after Ian was unique where the FEMA reimbursed the state for debris collected from private properties and that they did not see that happening this time.

Even though it is catastrophic on LGI the effects of both Helene and Milton were not far reaching. Drive mile inland and it looks like a normal day. I was told this by the staff member who administrated the ATL contract. She is very familiar and that is her opinion.

Charlotte County does have a contractor picking up storm debris from public roads but as you all probably know LGI does not have any public roads on it. Our paths traverse right of ways dedicated to the public, easements and private property. Because of this I don't see them coming here with equipment on the island. What they have done is place dumpsters at Eldred's and are placing them this week at the Fishery. That will help with the burden of disposal, but it will still have to be moved there.

So, this will apparently fall on islanders to clean up themselves. One of the big problems now is the roads. From Seagrape lane North the sand is so soft that most equipment we use to move green bags can't get through. There are people slowly removing that soft top sand, but it is taking time, they are all volunteers.

I suggested each street or subdivision work together to get their debris bagged and staged at a location where it can be loaded onto a barge. Richard suggested breaking it up by dock associations, which I think is a great idea.

Something else that would help a lot is a temporary landing to the North. If by chance Peacock Lane is going to rebuild their entire dock perhaps that could be a potential loading spot in the meantime. There is a HUGE amount of debris in that area, probably 20 houses gone there washed onto their neighbors properties.

Another important aspect of this is organic material and wood that can be burned. That needs to stay on the island and out of green bags. Personally, if am called to a home to pick up green bags and they are full of palm fronds and coconuts I am leaving it there. Dumpster space is too valuable to fill it with yard waste.

I am open to suggestions but those are my thoughts.

Thank you,
Robert Hill

Police Report Submitted by Deputy Prummell

Issues being reported to the Sheriff's Office have pertained to debris dumping. There are no designated dumps sites on the island, so you must transport your debris to the offsite dumpsite. There has been no word concerning debris relief/removal like after Ian two years ago. Some corners have accumulated debris from the clearing for necessary island navigation purposes, but these corners are growing with debris still and will be considered illegal dumping moving forward. I escorted the Environmental Detective who handles illegal dumping and solid waste matters out to the island this week. He is advocating for you to get help with the debris, but your neighbor's parcels are not dump sites. Investigations will be taken seriously moving forward, since this was brought to their attention regarding the growing debris piles on private pieces of property.

Please keep debris out of the pathways and in your yards, so vehicles, including emergency services, can navigate the island.

To All Island Residents:

After two '100 year' storms have hit our island in less than two weeks, islanders have pulled together and started the recovery process. In my near forty years on the island, this by far has been the worst I have seen. We are estimating thirty homes are gone either by storm surge, fires or condemned. This recovery will take time.

Little Gasparilla Water Utility would like to give thanks to the many that have helped in the recovery process. A thank you to Governor Ron DeSantis for providing equipment and operators to help clear many roads and a huge thanks goes to Robert Hill for his unselfish commitment to service all islanders and utilities.

Little Gasparilla Water Utility's recovery team, led by Ashton Boyer, has done a remarkable job under extreme circumstances. The Utility secured water service hours before Milton arrived. Within 24 hours, we were in the process of restoring services, section by section; and within 48 hours island water was restored (meaning water leaks were secured). Little Gasparilla Water Utility main lines were never compromised, only the feeder lines, along with the house lines.

Bill Truex visited the island. We discussed the possibility of Charlotte County granting a water loss credit to be passed on to the customers. This loss credit was denied by the County Administrator and County Attorneys. We advise, if your billing usage is affected by the hurricane, to possibly notify your insurance company for your water loss.

Many homes on the beach lost meters attached to their homes or are under sand. For the homes that were lost or severely damaged, we capped or shut down these homes immediately to prevent water loss for those homeowners. For those homes whose meters are under many feet of sand, locating these meters will take time. If this pertains to your home, your next billing cycle in December will be estimated and will be reconciled in the March billing cycle.

If your home is completely gone or unlivable, please contact the office at 941-681-2778, if you haven't already

We pray for your recovery and have confidence the island will be restored to the beauty we all cherish.

Sincerely,

Jack & Diane Boyer

Charlotte County Seeks Resident Opinions Online

CHARLOTTE COUNTY, Fla. (Oct. 29, 2024) – Charlotte County is asking residents to participate in the National Community Survey. The survey is designed to provide a baseline of how the county government is serving residents, to gauge perceptions of the county, and to make comparisons with peer counties.

The National Community Survey was developed and is administered by the National Research Center at Polco of Middleton, Wisconsin. The survey includes questions about quality of life in the community, local policies, demographics, ratings of local government services and resident use of services.

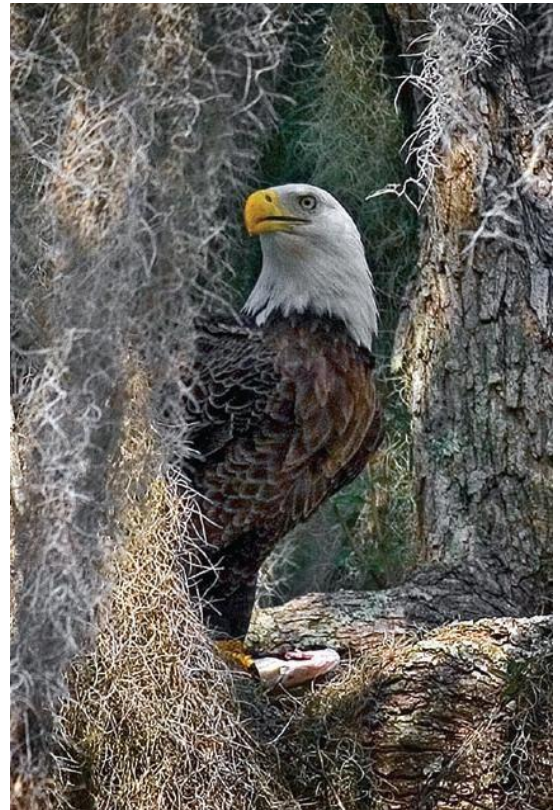
All residents of Charlotte County are eligible to participate.

The survey is available online: polco.us/CharlotteCounty2024. The survey can also be accessed via a link on our website www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov — look for the survey graphic on the home page.

The survey closes Nov. 12, 2024. Residents with questions about the survey may contact the Communications Department at 941-623-1092.

Hello Eagle Neighbor,

Let me take a moment to introduce myself, I am an Audubon EagleWatch volunteer. You are so fortunate to have living near your home a nesting pair of American Bald Eagles. They return to their nest every year to mate and raise their eaglets. It is my privilege as a volunteer to oversee this process, and to ensure the safety of these magnificent birds. The eagle nesting season starts October 1st and runs through May 15th. During this time, it is very important that the eagles and their nests are not disturbed. Eagles may spook and leave the nest until they feel safe to return. Leaving the nest unattended for 15 minutes can be lethal for their unhatched eggs or young eaglets, which depend on the parents to keep them warm and dry. Photo: Joe Doherty There are a few things we can do during the nesting season to make sure the eagles have the best chance at a successful season. Watching from a safe distance so as not to disturb them is best. Please refrain from any activity that creates a disturbance or may spook them from their nest, such as roof replacement, tree trimming, land clearing, drone use, or anything that makes a lot of noise or gathers large numbers of people close to nest. Activities like these may lead to nest failure and the unnecessary death of eggs or baby eagles.



Bald Eagles and their nests are protected by state and federal laws. Disturbing nesting eagles or removing a nest without a permit is a federal violation, punishable by up to \$10,000 in fines and possible jail time. To avoid disturbing nesting eagles, the US Fish and Wildlife Service suggests refraining from certain activities within 330ft of an active nest until the young have left the nest for the season. Thank you for your care and cooperation in protecting this eagle family and providing a quiet and safe place for them to raise their young. If you observe any activity near the nest that is disturbing the eagle family, please report it via the Florida Fish and Wildlife Hotline at 888-404-3922. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

Questions or concerns please call FWC or volunteer. **FWC Hotline (888) 404-3922**

Eagle Watch Volunteer:

Susie Derheimer 941-740-1513

Coastal Environmental Specialist Charlotte County Natural Resource

Eagle Watching Etiquette

For the safest and least intrusive viewing experience, please follow these guidelines when observing or photographing nesting eagles:

- Use binoculars or a spotting scope to observe eagles closely. Photographers should use telephoto lenses.
- Do not stand directly under an eagle nest or in close view of the eagles. The recommended viewing distance is at least 330 feet.
- Once parked safely off the road, remain in or near your vehicle. Vehicles can serve as very effective “bird blinds”.
- Do not make loud or sudden noises. Avoid yelling, car door slamming, or horn honking.
- Move quickly and quietly to any designated observation areas.
- Never try to make eagles fly or stand up at the nest.
- Always ask permission before entering private property.
- Keep pets at home.

Photo by Dominick Martino

Placida Beach Condominium Update: submitted by Joe

Like the many of the other homes and condominiums on Little Gasparilla Island, The Placida Beach condominiums suffered severe damage to the utility infrastructure and the ground level storage areas. With the invaluable assistance of Richard Leydon III and his excavator, FPL quickly reset two ground level transformers which had been undermined by flowing seawater. However, they have not been reconnected to the buildings, while we await a private electrical contractor to repair/replace meter bases and electrical main shutoffs, as well as underground conduit and cables from the transformers to the building meters. Likewise, extensive plumbing damage awaits a plumbing contractor to repair both supply and drains. All our HVAC units were submerged and require replacement. Our lift station for sewage remains offline until electrical supply repairs are complete. Our bayside dock is severely damaged and not usable, as well as our beach board walk. Contractors are currently being sought by the association for appropriate permitting and reconstruction of the dock. Occupancy is prohibited until electrical repairs are complete and the fire suppression system is repaired.

Board of Directors update: submitted by Joe

District 8 Director position has been vacant for almost one year. Jeff Handlin formerly held the position but chose not to stay on when his term expired at the annual meeting in Spring of 2024. An announcement of the vacancy was posted to the website prior to the 2024 annual meeting for volunteers from the district to run for the vacant seat. No volunteer stepped forward, so an election was not held. The position remained vacant. In the wake of hurricanes Helene and Milton, Robert Hill, although not a resident in District 8, approached the LGPOA Board of Directors voicing his desire to be a board member, to help with the island recovery process. He is a property owner and an LGPOA member. He has kept the island alive the last two years after Ian. He is now in contact with all the parties that will help restore our island. As such the board moved to appoint him to the vacant director position (at large, District 8). A vote of the directors was held electronically, and the motion passed by a firm majority.

Current LGPOA Board and district information:

Laurie Tremblay, Director, representing District 1, jltremblay125@gmail.com

Brian Callahan, Treasurer, representing District 2, mrbricallahan@gmail.com

Deric Flom, Vice-president, representing District 3, lgicarts@gmail.com

Richard Leydon, President, representing District 4, leydonrealestate@gmail.com

Joe Bokar, Secretary, representing District 5, joseph.bokar@case.edu

Barb Dwyer, Director, representing District 6, bdwyer31@yahoo.com

Pede Fraser, Director at large, representing District 7, newf-mom@hotmail.com

District 8, Robert Hill Director at large, representing District 8, snookpole@aol.com

LGPOA Districts

District/Addresses

- District 1: 8000 – 8288
- District 2: 8292 – 8538, including: 8542, 8550, 8556, 8560, 8564, 8568, 8570, 8576, 8578, 8586
- District 3: 8594 – 8888, including: 8546, 8554, 8558, 8562, 8566, 8574, 8582, 8590, excluding: 8802-8818 (even #'s)
- District 4: 8890 - 9134, including: 8802-8818 (even #'s)
- District 5: 9140 – 9394
- District 6: Hideaway Bay
- District 7: 9420 – 9646, excluding: 9494, 9498, 9502
- District 8: 9660 – 9908, including: 9494, 9498, 9502

If you need information, names, numbers, etc. for help in recovery, please check these Facebook pages.

- LGI Homeowner's Only Forum
- We Love LGI Little Gasparilla Island, FL
- LGI Recovery



Thank you to all who are helping in the island recovery:

The road repair crew, the food providers, the fundraisers, those who have distributed items, persons who have transported others across the intercoastal, the marinas and their workers, those who have brought in helpers, the off island workers with their skills, our politicians and government workers, and those who have helped their neighbors in any way.

Let us all continue to do our share on the path to complete recovery!

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.