

# BOCA BEACON

\$1

WE NEED A NICE, BIG BONFIRE ... AND MARSHMALLOWS



Vol. 43, No. 42

Boca Grande, Florida

Your Locally-Owned Weekly Newspaper

October 21, 2022

## Inside:

- Island fundraisers
- Joy Bowe obituary
- Voting information

### A message from The Gasparilla Inn & Club

On behalf of everyone in The Gasparilla Inn community, I want to thank you all for your support and thoughts as we work through the damage to our properties. We are now targeting an opening date of December 15, 2022. We will be working hard over the coming weeks to repair roofs and wind damage to our Cottages, Beach Club, Inn and restaurants. We have significant work to do on our employee housing and laundry facilities. The Innlet and the Outlet will be opening soon, as well as The Pink Elephant. The Bakery will remain closed, but we are working on a fun idea to offer the same treats and beverages to our guests and local community. The Inn Golf Course is being assessed at this time, and we will provide further updates in the near future. The Inn Marina is open. We were very fortunate to not suffer major structural damage to The Inn, but we did incur wind and water damage throughout the building. In addition, part of our cleanup involves asbestos removal, which is typical for a historic property like ours and is subject to a well-documented, regulated and industry standard cleanup and repair process. We will continue to keep you updated with our progress. And we look forward to seeing everyone in December.

Jon Reecher  
General Manager of The Inn

#### To all our valued subscribers:

We here at the Boca Beacon office are doing our best to make sure your paper is delivered to you. Please help us in this quest by making sure your mailing address is up to date.

This past spring, many of you provided us with a date for your return to the island. This obviously may have changed. The postal system will forward much of your mail, however, newspapers and other periodicals will only forward for a few weeks. We would hate to see you miss out on all the updates. Please contact our office via phone, email or through our website so we can update our records.

The Boca Beacon Staff



## STILL, WE STAND ...

■ Our publisher, Dusty Hopkins, got to take to the skies with Aaron Diaz and Ben Taylor and got some amazing shots of the island. This is one of the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse. For the lighthouse story, see page 12. For more photos, see pages 14 and 16.

### Information regarding hurricane debris removal

#### ■ STAFF REPORT

Charlotte County Public Works contractors are out in force removing vegetative storm debris. It is the home and business owner's responsibility to bring the debris to the curb and to properly separate it.

For this post-storm pickup, do not put vegetative debris in bags, because it will not be picked up.

Debris that is not properly separated will not be picked up. Residents should separate disaster debris into

the six categories below and place piles in the public right-of-way, off the road and not on private property:

**Construction and demolition materials** (nonrecyclable building construction materials – drywall, asphalt shingles, plastic sinks/tubs, floor tiles, etc.; nonrecyclable building contents and personal property – carpeting/rugs, furnishings, clothing, etc.)

**Electronic waste** – e-waste, discarded electrical or electronic devices. Used electronics which are destined for refurbishment, reuse, resale,

salvage recycling through material recovery.

**Household hazardous waste** (paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, pesticides, etc.); please be sure these materials are in a secured container and are not leaking in any way.

**White goods** - large home appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, driers, etc. (please follow the (name of the jurisdiction) guidelines for disposal of

See DEBRIS on PAGE 18

## 'This may be our slice of paradise, but putting it back together will be no piece of cake'

*LGI comes together to confront one of the worst storms in their history*

#### ■ BY MARCY SHORTUSE

Sometimes, one innocuous post on Facebook can change a day for the better. The caption on a photo of a photograph of a lady sitting on a screened-in deck said, "A lineman brought this to us after finding it. It was near the south canal. If it's yours, text Willy." The photo had been found on Little Gasparilla Island after Hurricane Ian hit. Who knows how far that little piece of a memory flew from its original location, but the people of LGI all know how precious those little memories are.

After all, they have already watched their little island network of generational houses and families become more and more commercialized, the island turned more into a destination



spot than a family haven. They have weathered many storms out there and watched some homes literally disappear into the Gulf. The joke is, "Well, our house is the third ... I mean the second ... one from the Gulf ..."

Ian hit them really hard. There is hardly a home that didn't have some kind of damage, even if it isn't appar-

ent from the outside. When Raphaela and William Myers came back to the island after evacuating, they had to hitch a ride because their boat had sunk. She described what it was like coming over the water, toward home.

"We remember the chaos of the

See LGI on PAGE 19

