

# BEACH BUZZ

A Newsletter for HBBC Owners

## Buzz Bites

### Statistics

With 80% of possible data collected in 2019, the ferry statistics are

- 26,343 people transported
- 125 runs of >25 people or double runs
- Saturday was the busiest day of the week, followed by Tues.
- 10 AM & 11 AM were the busier times of day
- March was the busiest month, followed by Dec.

### Shingle Change

A super majority vote was achieved to change the roof shingle color to grey/white.

### Septic Issues

Just a reminder, flushable wipes are not meant to be used in a septic system. Please remind your renters, guests & visitors of the fragile nature of our septic system.



## WiFi Status

The number one complaint at Hideaway is the access to WiFi while on the island. Too many users, too slow, too much lag time, dropped programs, can't get on at all - these are just a few of the common complaints.

An IT expert (Joe) came out to evaluate our system last month. We get a signal from the mainland (download) at 40 Mbps (Megabits per second). That signal comes into the caretaker's building to the main router which distributes the signal to the rest of the property. The main router can handle about 10 - 15 inquiries at any one time. The signal is transmitted to the other 3 Buildings (F, G, K) where it goes through another gateway before being accessed by the individual. The upload speed back to the internet is 10 Mbps. When Joe checked, there were 97 devices online - it was a Thursday at 11:30 AM.

The next part of our issue is channel interference. The WiFi signal is broadcast at 2.4 GHz. There are 11 channels which can

## Emergency Access

It is imperative that the Caretaker have a key (preferable) or access code to enter into your condo in case of emergency or fire system maintenance & inspection. In case you have concerns, all emergency keys are held in a locked wall cabinet in the captain's office which is also locked when the captain is not in the office.

## Pets at HBBC

Owners are the only people allowed to bring pets to the island. You must be prepared to show your owner key tag when you ride the ferry. Renters, Guests and Visitors are not allowed to bring pets at any time.

## HBBC Weather Station

A weather station has been purchased to allow captains an up to the minute report of wind conditions at the HBBC docks.

Want to check it out yourself? Download the Weatherflow Smart Weather App on Google Play or the App Store or go to [www.weathersmart.weatherflow.com](http://www.weathersmart.weatherflow.com)

Login with the email address [HBBC2015@yahoo.com](mailto:HBBC2015@yahoo.com).

The password is LGI33946.

handle the signal. Bldg G is set up on Channel 1, Bldg K is set up on Channel 11 and Bldg F is set up on Channel 6. This was done to avoid interference between the signals. There is an overlap of 2-3 channels when WiFi is used. As more people within the community put up their own Satellite WiFi dishes, MyFi, or hotspots, individual signals may be boosted but the interference created for the whole community becomes greater.

For example, if an individual satellite dish is set up on channel 8, every person trying to connect to WiFi on the signal being broadcast to channel 6 or 11 would potentially encounter interference - from slow speeds to the inability to access the internet at all.

As we become more dependent on smart devices - smart tv's, smart thermostats, security cameras, streaming tv devices, the load on our WiFi system becomes greater. It takes 5 - 10 Mbps to stream a TV show (Download). When we try to view footage from security camera, or access data from thermostats, we use the upload portion of our bandwidth.

The proposal by Joe is to put up an antenna/transmitter on the mainland to bring in 1000 Mbps. Upload speed would be 35 Mbps. The only way to get faster upload is to put in fiber optic cable to the mainland transmitter. The monthly cost was deemed to be prohibitive. Change out the routers and the other signal gateway points to allow better data flow. At this point Joe would evaluate the system to ensure those people in the dead zone would get service. If the service was still not adequate, he would bring another transmitter/antenna to I bldg to ensure 1000 Mbps to the gulf units. The last resort would be to run a hard line to all units not able to access WiFi.

The Board voted to upgrade the WiFi system. The money to pay for the upgrade will be taken from last years budget surplus. Once the upgraded system is in place, we will ask all homeowners to shut down individual WiFi service & hot spots. Software controls might be necessary as a last resort to prevent one owner from interfering with many users.

Meanwhile, disconnect any passive device while not in use. These include WiFi printers, Amazon Firesticks, iPads, Kindles, Tablets, Roku,.....The person you help might be yourself.

## Sea Turtle Nesting

Sea turtle nesting season began May 1st and lasts through Nov 1st.

All beach paraphernalia should be removed daily.

Flashlights, cameras & cell phone lights can be disruptive to the sea turtles. If you go down to the beach at night, please use only night vision or red lights on the beach.

Disrupting or disturbing a sea turtle while nesting is a felony & subject to fines.

## AED

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been purchased & installed by the garage doors on the caretaker bldg.

## Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 29th at 10:30 AM.

## Feedback

If there is a topic you would like to see addressed in this venue, please contact me by email at [bdwyer31@yahoo.com](mailto:bdwyer31@yahoo.com)

Barb Dwyer  
HBBC Board VP

# Children on Golf Carts

There have been an increasing number of children seen driving golf carts, motorized vehicles, ebikes, ATVs... on HBBC property as well as on LGI main thoroughfares.

The age for driving a golf cart in Florida is 14 years old. At Hideaway, the age has been raised to 16 years old. Children younger than 16 have limited ability to react quickly to dangerous situations, including oncoming or cross traffic, the consequences of speed on turns or even bumps in the road. They are prone to distraction. Some can barely reach the pedals while sitting in the drivers seat. People walking have been hit by inattentive drivers. Golf carts have been crashed. Reckless behaviors are increasing.

**This is a gentle reminder to all parents that your underage children are not allowed to drive a golf cart or other motorized vehicle on Little Gasparilla Island. Even if you are in the cart with them.**

The Little Gasparilla Island Property Owners Association (LGPOA) is concerned that increased reckless behavior by children in motorized vehicles might cause the island roads to be shut down again. Remember all road on LGI are on private property. There are no public roads. LGPOA has asked the Sheriff's Department to start being more assertive by issuing warnings and tickets to the underage drivers and their parents. The HBBC Board agrees with this decision.

We also ask that all bikes - ebikes or traditional bikes are walked if on the HBBC boardwalk or docks. Please ensure all renters, guest & visitors understand & follow all HBBC rules & guidelines.

We want Hideaway to be enjoyable and safe for all.

