

GULF GATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024

President Cass Smith's Message

Dear Neighbors,

The citizens of our County were pummeled by Hurricane Milton, especially Siesta, Casey, Longboat Key and Anna Marie Island. Gulf Gate Estates did not escape its wrath, though we avoided flooding as the storm surge was less than expected. Power outages, roof and cage damage and tree debris proliferated.

Here is some information about filing a claim with FEMA:

1. A household may apply for Critical Needs Assistance which is approximately \$750. You may be eligible because of the power outage and evacuation. To open a claim: 1-800-621-3362 or [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).
2. FEMA may be able to assist with wind or flood damage for owner occupied homes. There is a process to qualify which requires the denial of a claim by your insurance company or a settlement which is not adequate to repair the damage. FEMA is mandated to make sure there are no duplicate payments, so this

documentation is necessary. Payments are based on the level of damage incurred. FEMA representatives encouraged citizens to READ the entire letter which explains this process in detail. There is no assistance for insurance deductibles or debris clean-up.

3. Contact FEMA for correct information. Do Not Rely on Rumors, which are rampant. It's in your interest to get the facts.

The volume of debris has been overwhelming. The County is making headway with removal. They ask for your patience as they add more collectors to handle the load.

Waste Management will be on a regular schedule for trash pickup by the week of October 28.

Unfortunately, the hurricane season is not over.

Let's stay prepared. Keep in touch with your neighbors.

GULF GATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
6601 SOUTH TAMiami TRAIL #222
SARASOTA, FL 34231
WWW.GGCA.US

GGCA MEETINGS

Gulf Gate Library

5:30 p.m.

Next General Meeting:

Tuesday, Nov 12 (elections for 2025)
VERY IMPORTANT!!!

Board Meetings:

First Tuesday
of every month

(except November; 6
Wednesday)

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE CLEAR the SIDEWALKS of DEBRIS and VEHICLES. IT IS A COUNTY LAW. Thank you.

GOLF COURSE UPDATE:

There has been some discussion with the developer about interest in selling the property. We look forward to progress after the storm recovery process recedes.

Residents have reported some issues with trees located on the golf course that threaten their property or block storm drainage swales. These have been reported to the developer who has indicated that they will alert their land management team.

The County Stormwater Management has been notified of the storm drain issue.

Local event



FARMERS' MARKET

Every **Wednesday**

October 2 to April 30

9:00 to 1:00

Phillippi Estate Park

5500 S. Tamiami Tr

Fresh veggies, fruit,
and so much more!

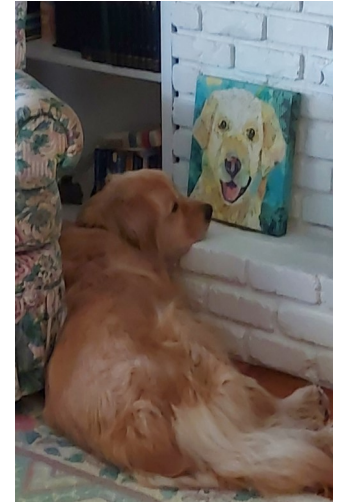
Our beloved pets!

Dugan
golden retriever #5!

Let's share a few
pictures and captions
with our community.

Send your photo and a
line or two, including
your pet's name, to:

communications@ggcaboard.us



WARNING: TAKE CAUTION IF SWIMMING IN THE GULF. Sarasota County will open some beaches on Saturday, October 26, but suggests that visitors exercise caution because of possible debris in the water.

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RED TIDE CONCERNS IN SARASOTA AND MANATEE COUNTIES: Red tide has been observed near our coastline according to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Millions of gallons of raw sewage released during Debby and Milton can contribute to the algal bloom which can cause respiratory irritation and fish kills. Testing and monitoring are continuing. Signs noting the presence of Red Tide will be posted at beaches if the algae is present.

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HOME BURGLARY ON GULF GATE DRIVE: A resident discovered a burglary when they returned home after evacuating for the hurricane. Thieves entered because of storm damage and the ensuing power outage. The police were notified. Please notify authorities if you see any unusual activity in the neighborhood. Keep porch lights on during the night. It's unfortunate that some people take advantage of others' misfortunes.

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SCAMMERS: Beware of scammers during this time either from unsolicited phone calls or knocking on your door. **Use local, licensed contractors** with a positive track record. Ask neighbors for referrals and check with the Better Business Bureau. There is no soliciting in our neighborhoods and most of the people knocking on our doors are not legitimate companies, so beware.

Date: Saturday, November 9

Time: 5:00 PM



PRIZES!!

FUN EVENING!!

PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO

COMMUNICATIONS@GGCABOARD.US

INCLUDE:

- 1) YOUR NAME*
- 2) NUMBER OF PEOPLE*
- 3) DISH YOU ARE PREPARING*
(TO REPRESENT YOUR NATIONALITY;
ENOUGH FOR 10-12 PEOPLE)

*Soft drinks, iced tea and snacks
will be provided.*

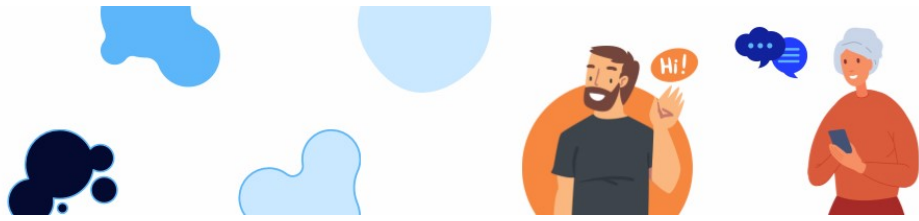
GULF GATE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

*is hosting this fun evening at
St. Andrew Church of Christ
6908 Beneva Road
in their Stewart Hall.*

*Dinner first at 5:15, then Bunco!
Bunco is a fun, super easy to learn,
fast-paced dice game.
Rules will be explained at 6:15;
play will begin at 6:30.*

COME ONE - COME ALL!!



GGCA New Partnership with HOA Messenger

The Gulf Gate Community Association has recently partnered with HOA Messenger.

HOA Messenger is a comprehensive software solution designed to help Homeowners Associations (HOAs), or in our case Community Associations, manage their administrative tasks efficiently.

There are several key features that will benefit the community and provide an effective way for the board members to communicate with our members. This subscription allows us to send messages to residents individually or broadcast to the entire community via push notifications, SMS, or email.

In lieu of the recent storms that have affected our community, we highly recommend that you sign up to receive these communications.

To get started, download the app or register on the web:

<https://resident.hoamessenger.com/register>



FRESH START with a **CART**



NEW AUTOMATED GARBAGE COLLECTION SERVICES BEGIN **MARCH 2025**



Current disposal guidelines for recycling and yard waste will not change.
For more information visit scgov.net/freshstartwithcart or call **311**.



The current Agreement with Waste Management, Inc. expires March 29, 2025. The collection of Residential Waste and/or Commercial Waste is limited for a period not to exceed 20 years by ordinance. Sarasota County was able to solicit competitive bids from franchise haulers to secure a high level of customer service at the best value for the new contracts. The Sarasota County Commission approved new hauler contracts for the collection of garbage, recycling and yard waste on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. was selected as the new hauler for the Solid Waste North Service Area and FCC Environmental Services of Florida, LLC was selected as the new hauler for the Solid Waste South Service Area.

The new contracts take effect on March 30, 2025, and the new collection services begin on March 31, 2025. Until then, unincorporated Sarasota County residents and visitors should continue to follow current disposal guidelines for collection services.

There have been a number of changes in technology and collection processes over the past 20+ years. Sarasota County used the data obtained from the 2022 Solid Waste Market Assessment to negotiate contracts with the new franchise haulers to retain, focusing on the most important services at the most cost-effective rates.

Automated garbage collection

The county is moving to automated garbage collection which is a process used by waste haulers where garbage and collection vehicles use mechanical arms to empty the contents from the containers. The automated process is safer for the collection staff and operators and more cost effective and efficient. The standard containers are supplied to property owners and help reduce windblown litter while also presenting a more uniform community appearance. View the CART FAQ for more information.

One franchise hauler to two franchise haulers

The change from one franchise hauler to two franchise haulers will provide each hauler with the opportunity to create new, efficient routes and run collection operations five days a week in their contracted service area.

Based on the new service area routes, most residents should anticipate a change in their service **collection day beginning on March 31, 2025.**

RANDOM HURRICANE IDEAS for NEXT TIME (hopefully never needed!):

After living in Sarasota for 54 years, 30 in Gulf Gate, you would think hurricane preparations would be second nature, but I learn something with every storm. You probably will not remember some of these things, but hopefully you might learn something from my mistakes or ideas!

1. Fill every available bucket, bowl, extra cooler, clean garbage cans with fresh water. (no water loss with Milton - so lucky!). Yes, pressure down for a while but water not needed to flush toilets, etc.
2. Put new batteries in flashlights, lanterns, charge up weather radio (which also can charge phones!), make sure plenty of dry matches if candles needed. Brainstorm - brought solar landscape spotlights inside and put them in tall vases as holders. One lights up an entire room! No batteries, no flames!
3. Buy small propane cookstove. Cold, canned Ravioli is something I hope to never eat again. Bake few items pre-storm; cook pasta.
4. Make sure generator works (purchased BIG one 3 days before Milton hit, worked fine first time, after storm only for 20 minutes - again lost two fridges full of food).
5. Buy portable air conditioner - one that doesn't have to be vented outside. Thankfully, weather wasn't too bad after Milton.
6. Hot water heaters are so insulated that we had water for quick showers four days after storm.
7. To save small bushes/trees from losing leaves, cover them with bird netting and secure.
8. Tornadoes do the most damage, so make sure you know the safest spot in your home to hide!
9. Secure fence gates (one of ours blew open after the eye passed and two of our heavy duty yard waste cans eloped). Others were weighted with patio blocks, turned on their sides - they never moved.
10. Jam pack your freezers - include iceblocks (made a few days before using small plastic containers then put in ziplock bags). NEVER OPEN freezers! Fridge food is good for 24 hours; freezer 48 hours. If anything is barely thawed, cook it!
11. Put all important papers in waterproof bags/fireproof box - something you can take with you if you must leave at the last minute.
12. Turn off main and individual electric breakers! Unplug computers, tvs, etc, from outlets.
13. Park car in garage and back up against garage door to keep door from blowing in. If outside, park far away from trees and against a building.
14. KEEP ALL INTERIOR/EXTERIOR DOORS and WINDOWS CLOSED. This helps keeps your roof on!
15. Listen/watch Dennis Phillips - best weather guy in our area! Don't panic until he does. LOL

FACTS: 1) If you have an iphone, you can determine your elevation - just look at your compass app.
2) With a 10' storm surge, the Gulf water would barely get to Tamiami Trail. Another 5' and almost to Gulf Gate Village.
3) Water intrusion is from roof or window leaks - different from flooding! Don't let insurance adjustor write flooding if it is water intrusion.

Kathy Butler

An Amazing Hike!

In late May/early to mid-June, one of our neighbors, Kathy Goff, embarked on a three week pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. She was joined by family and a dear friend.

Over 13 days, the group hiked over 130 miles from Astorga to Santiago, Spain, averaging 8-12 miles hiking per day. After a day of rest, the group went out to the Finisterre peninsula for three more days of hiking.

It was late spring, so many days felt like walking through flower gardens. We enjoyed the beautiful country and kind and welcoming people of Spain. A wonderful time had by all.



To see more of this incredible hike (pilgrimage for some), the movie "The Way" starring Martin Sheen can be seen on Amazon Prime.

If you have a special trip to share with neighbors, please send text and a few photos to communications@ggcaboard.us

As we all know well, we have experienced not one but a series of storms this season and significant for most of our memories. Neighbors helped neighbors through this process of yard debris clean up, power restoration, house watching for those that evacuated, checking on one another and more.

We are fortunate to be in the zones we are located in and thankfully in this last storm the street drainage did well. Some roofs had shingle loss and/or wind damage along with lanai and pool screen frames.

Prior to Hurricane Milton, Sarasota County came out and cleaned part of Matheny Creek and Eligraw Bayou. The county's timing of the cleaning of these areas was beneficial to Gulf Gate. The Gulf Gate Community Association sent a thank you note to Sarasota County from the association and its residents. As we have seen, the county employees have worked tirelessly these last few months to assist all areas of our county along with handling preparation and recovery at their own homes. The season ends in a month and then we can all celebrate this last storm season is behind us for this year.

Kathy Goff