



Golden Beach Newsletter July 2021

“While Florida is known as the Sunshine State, it is notorious for thunderstorms, lightning strikes and fatalities. On average, Florida has 3,500 cloud to ground lightning flashes per day and 1.2 million flashes per year” – Accuweather

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/why-florida-ranks-highest-for-lightning-fatalities-in-the-us/350561>

While standing peacefully on the Beachcomber balcony and shooting a video of an afternoon thunderstorm on June 28th, a guest captured this amazing image of a lightning strike in our neighborhood. Although it appears the palm tree has burst into flames, in fact the strike did very little immediate damage. Both the photographer and tree are still standing, though the tree trunk is a bit scarred.



Lightning is a serious risk in Florida. The University of South Florida gives this simple advice: *“When It Roars, Go Indoors!”* They suggest some basic precautions:

- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning
- If outside, seek refuge in a nearby building
- Avoid seeking shelter under trees
- If indoors, stay away from water and metal objects

For more information, visit USF:

<https://www.usf.edu/administrative-services/emergency-management/hazards/lightning-safety.aspx>



*Stay safe!
Don't let this be you.*

Fourth Of July at the Beach Access

July 4th is a big day for beach-going. In years past, there were reports of tense personal interactions with people who did not have the right to beach access or lot parking. In an effort to avoid such problems this holiday, GBAI placed a large graphic sign at the beach access entrance. The goal was simple: to direct non-resident beach visitors towards legal public beach access and parking within minutes of Golden Beach.

The sign is part of our ongoing effort to educate the general public that access to the beach through our property is not permitted.

The sign may have helped reduce illegal parking during the afternoon. Four spot checks of the parking lot on the afternoon of July 4th found only 2 violating cars. The lot was never full in the afternoon.

The sign did not fix the illegal parking problem in the evening. At 9:00 pm (during the fireworks displays) the lot was 100% full. Six of the lot spaces, or 35% of total capacity, were occupied by vehicles without permits. Half a dozen GBAI members were denied parking in the lot due to trespassing parking violators.



Free Local Organic Insect & Rodent Control

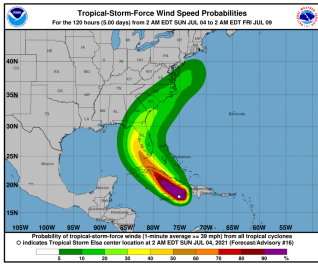
Snakes are our free, local, organic insect and rodent control. Before you kill a snake, please realize that nearly all of the snakes in Venice are harmless to humans AND are beneficial to the environment. For an easy guide to identifying Florida snakes, see <https://www.volusia.org/core/fileparse.php/5822/urlt/VenomousNonVenomousSnakesOfFloridaFWC.pdf> Go Black Racers! Onward Corn Snakes! Bye-bye rats!

Volunteers Change-Up—new Who is doing What!

Questions about membership privileges? Lost parking stickers? Have a suggestion for the beach access? Don't contact Elizabeth! PLEASE contact GBAI in two easy ways:

- through the website www.goldenbeachassociates.com The **Contact Us** link is at upper right, or
- through our email at contact@goldenbeachassociates.com

Your question will then be forwarded to the person who can best help you. It may take a few days as we are all volunteers!



Hurricane Season is with us again. The season officially runs June through November, with peak activity from August through September. NOAA publishes a great resource to track the development of storms and predict travel paths, arrival times and local impacts:

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo.php?basin=atlc&fdays=5>

The State of Florida also publishes a useful guide to hurricane preparedness, with detailed information on what to include in your hurricane kit, how to secure your home against damage, dealing with power outages and more: <https://www.stateofflorida.com/articles/hurricane-preparedness-guide/>

Gazebo Reservations Due to Covid restrictions, Golden Beach Associates has a moratorium on formal reservations of the easement and gazebo. The moratorium was adopted to best comply with CDC and City of Venice guidelines on public gatherings. However, members may informally gather at the gazebo and easement. The board asks that members use their own best judgment as to COVID-19 prevention measures. The question of whether there is a continued need for the moratorium, or it can be lifted based on then current conditions, will be discussed in the next Board meeting in early September.



Turtle Nesting Precautions Our beach is now covered with turtle nests, with new ones being marked daily by MOTE Marine volunteers! MOTE says that turtles (both nesting moms and new-born hatchlings) are very easily confused by lights.

MOTE suggests that we not use flashlights or flash cameras on the beach through September. The turtles thank you!

