

THE APRIL ISLANDER

Next meeting April 19, the speaker is Susan Bassett, Plein Air Art Project

Social begins at 6:30 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Hall at the SGI Firehouse, 324 E. Pine Avenue

BYOB and a covered dish

p.m. at the Jay Abbott

Water Management asks for Rate Increase

Gail Riegelmayr talked about a rate increase Water Management Services, Inc. (WMSI) requested through the Office of Public Counsel (OPC), associated with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC). The Office of Public Counsel's role is to represent customers of water and electric utilities to the PSC. Gail talked to Erik Saylor of the OPC and found out it is in the best interest of the customers to insist that the PSC go through the normal public hearing process instead of allowing the fast-track process called the PAA (proposed agency action). To accomplish this, a grassroots effort is needed by WMSI customers to send emails, letters or faxes to the Commission Clerk and/or directly to the PSC commissioners asking that WMSI be required to follow normal procedures. Correspondence should also request that all letters, faxes and emails be placed in the "correspondence file" of the docket. Contact information can be found at the SGI Civic club Website at:

the proposed rate case. However, no customer testimony will be taken and its likely no commissioners will attend. Customer meetings are held for rate cases using PAA process, not the hearing process. If the Commission rules against WMSI and grants a hearing, they may cancel the customer meeting.

If customers want to know how they can be involved at this stage, they can contact the Commission Clerk's Office and request that the Commission set this rate case for hearing.

The email address is (clerk@psc.state.fl.us or call (850) 413-6770.) If contacting the Commission Clerk's Office for this rate case, please reference the docket number and docket title "Docket No. 110200 - Application for increase in water rates in Franklin County by Water Management Services, Inc."

New County-wide Voting Petition Requirements

and turned in by May 30th.

The goal in promoting county-wide voting is make Franklin County

Commissioners answerable to the entire county, rather than just the individuals of their particular district. With county-wide voting, you will vote for your choice of candidates for commissioner in each of the five district races. Under the current system where a commissioner is elected only by members of the specific district which he or she serves, they have little incentive to consider the impact of their actions on St. George Island or any district other than that which votes for them.

Needless to say, county-wide voting involves risks as well as opportunities. Since voters in other districts will be able to vote for the SGI/Eastpoint commissioner, it is possible for a candidate who does not win the majority of (*See Voting, page 2*)

(Voting, from page 1) SGI/Eastpoint votes to win an election to represent our Island. With county-wide voting, however, all commissioners would need to consider whether their decisions will increase the support of, or result in the opposition of, that part of the county which pays the greatest majority of taxes and which has the most affluent population.

If you signed a County-Wide Voting petition prior to August 31, 2011, you must sign another petition. Your former petition is no longer valid. If you signed a petition after August 31, 2011, then your signature will be included in this second attempt and you do not need to sign again.

Members who want to sign the petitions can get them at: Sometimes It's Hotter on East Gulf Beach Drive, Sea Oats Gallery on East Pine Ave or through our President Mason Bean.

Make sure that you only sign the petition once, and that when you sign the petition your name appears just exactly as it is listed on the Voter Registration poll. If you are not sure how your name appears, you can refer to the following website:

<http://registration.elections.myflorida.com>.

If you are not sure when you signed a petition then sign the new one. There is a program that will delete duplicate petitions before it is turned into the Registrar's office.

Bingo continues Winter Season

The Winter Bingo season did so good that it will continue into April. At the end of March, the money raised was just over \$4,000.



With interest still high it was decided to continue into April and on April 4, we made another \$400. The last game, winner take all, saw a jackpot of \$125. Easter week, with Spring Break in Georgia and Alabama, has almost every rental house on the Island occupied. Whether this will continue interest in Bingo is unknown, but tune in next month for a final tally of Bingo profits.

Upcoming Events:

Cape St. George Lighthouse

The April Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Friday, April 6. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will include light hors d'oeuvres and a sparkling cider toast to the full moon. Cost is \$15.00 for the general public and \$10.00 for members of the St. George Lighthouse Association. The sun will set at 8:01 p.m. and the moon will rise at 8:14 p.m. on April 6.

After sunset, people are invited to climb to the top of the lighthouse for a breathtaking view of the full moon, as space and time permit. Cost is \$10.00 for the general public and \$5.00 for SGLA members.

Because space is limited, reservations are recommended. For reservations or more information, please contact the St. George Island Visitor Center at 850-927-7744 or toll free at 888-927-7744.



Apalachicola

Saturday, April 14

Shops and galleries will be open late, restaurants will feature fantastic specials. Take a moment and meet the local artists and shop owners; we are a friendly group. Most shops and cafes encourage you to bring your pets as well! Visit our stores and have dinner at your favorite restaurant and stroll our sidewalks.

This Second Saturday we have a new exhibit with Maritime Artists, including Bill Fransworth.

14th Annual Apalachicola Antique & Classic Boat Show

Friday and Saturday, April 20-21. Friday, there will be a special boat building demonstration and the 1877 Governor Stone gaff rigged schooner will arrive. Saturday, antique boats, examples of classic and traditional vessels, workboats, and fiberglass and aluminum classics will all be on display throughout the day. This festival emphasizes the maritime history of our picturesque coastal town.

Special highlights include authentic oyster boats, workboats, and home-built boats by skilled craftsmen, antique outboard engines, plus antique automobiles and art booths. The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will have displays on the Apalachicola River and its flora and fauna, plus demonstrations on oyster tonging. The 50 foot long Apalachicola Traders' Canoe will be on display at the Cotton Warehouse on Water Street .

The restored 1877 gaff-rigged schooner the Governor Stone will also be on display at the city dock in the center of town and the Apalachicola Riverkeepers will be giving guided tours of the river. Also, at the Cotton Warehouse there be an exhibit of model boats built by some of the finest model boat builders in the country, plus a marine art exhibit. At 6:00 pm there will be a dinner and lecture. Reservations required for dinner and evening lecture. For information please call (850) 653-9419.



Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge

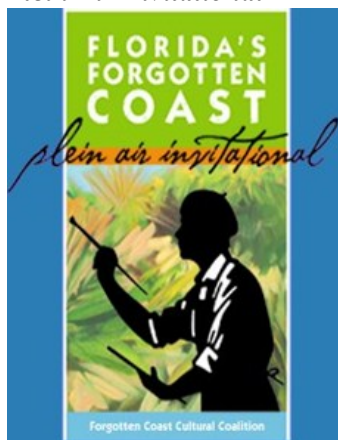
The Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge invites participants to visit and/or climb four lighthouses in Northwest Florida on

Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22. Lighthouses participating are: Cape St. George Light on St. George Island, Crooked River Lighthouse in Carrabelle, St. Marks Lighthouse in St. Marks, and Cape San Blas Lighthouse on Cape San Blas. For more info, call the St. George Visitor Center at 888-927-7744 or visit www.StGeorgeLight.org.

Carrabelle The 22nd Annual Carrabelle Riverfront Festival on Saturday, April 28th and Sunday, April 29th, from 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday and 10:00 AM to 4:00 pm on Sunday.

Celebrate the culture, history and vitality of coastal Carrabelle. This annual festival offers regional arts and crafts, family friendly attractions and local culinary treats. The unique unpretentious charm of Carrabelle is on display as they celebrate the laid back life style with unique hometown attractions.

Plein Air Invitational



More than 20 nationally acclaimed artists will gather on Florida's Forgotten Coast in early May to participate in the 7th annual Florida's

Forgotten Coast Plein Air Invitational, America's Great Paint-Out, May 3-13, 2012. Painters will set up their easels and pull out their brushes to document the landscape and culture of this last vestige of authentic "Old Florida" – the coastal stretch of scenic North Florida between Mexico Beach and Alligator Point.

Visit our website at:
www.sgcivicclub.org

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