

THE JUNE ISLANDER

Next meeting June 21

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

City of Carrabelle Applies for loan to purchase Water Management

Pinki Jackel, the Chair of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, spoke to members in attendance at the May Civic Club meeting. She went over several of the landscaping efforts by the County on the Island and other items. She then surprised everyone by announcing that the City of Carrabelle has applied for a \$15 million loan to purchase the water management system (WMSI) on the Island.



Pinki Jackel

As long as Water Management Services own the water utility as a private company, they must have approval of the

Public Service

Commission just as they are doing now.

However, a municipality does not have to get approval and can raise water rates at will. As happened recently when the City of Carrabelle annexed the Lanark Village water supply. Commissioner Jackel had just heard about this development before coming to the Civic Club meeting.

Civic Club member, Gail Riegelmayr, had also heard about the loan request and presented several sales options to those present:

1. Water Management sells to another private utility company.
2. The City of Carrabelle gets the loan and purchases the utility.
3. The residents of St. George Island form a Co-operative to purchase the utility.

The options are not many and research needs to be done. Several members talked about how well they had been treated by Talquin Electric Co-op based out of Quincy.

(See Page 2, Carrabelle)

County Commission Meeting, June 5

by Fran Giknis

I am happy to report that the Franklin County Commission voted unanimously yesterday on Commission Chairman Pinki Jackel's request to formally urge the State Government to intercede to delay the approval of a \$15 million loan from the Florida DEP to the City of Carrabelle.

As the Commission Chair, Pinki could not make the motion, which was made by Commissioner Cheryl Sanders. Commissioner Sanders said that she had learned only last week of the plan for Carrabelle to buy the utility. At that point, the County attorney said, "well, then you are not going to be happy to hear that in my preliminary investigation, I learned that the sale has been in the works for six months". None of the commissioners were pleased, and Commissioner Sander's motion was seconded by Commissioner Smoky Parrish, who said that he approved in part because he had received "over 100
(See Page 2, FCBOC Meeting)

(Carrabelle, from Page 1)

Tom Slocum suggested the Civic Club hold a town meeting for home and business owners.

(FCBOC Meeting form Page 1) emails that locked up my computer” requesting the action. Commissioner Sanders said she believed that the transfer of ownership should only take place if it was the will of the people served. She asked Attorney Michael Schuler to see if the County Commission had standing to approve (or disapprove) the sale. The Commission felt that at the very least, a municipality that was considering taking ownership of a utility that served another community should notify the governing body of that community of their intent. The actions of the City of Carrabelle were thought to be a breach of respect and courtesy. Commissioner Sanders said that she was “very disappointed with the City of Carrabelle Board and very supportive of the delay of the loan and an investigation”.

Commissioner Putnal worried what would happen if Gene Brown just “walked away” from the operation, leaving the Island without water. Commissioner Jackel replied that WMSI was a profitable business with a payroll and that Mr. Brown

was paying himself a salary so it was very unlikely to happen.

Attorney Schuler reassured the Commission that the State’s regulatory function would prevent this worst-case scenario from happening.

In urging delay of the loan, Commissioner Jackel noted that there was a DEP meeting scheduled for August 7, but that this meeting would be after the loan was granted if it stayed on track and that the sale would be downstream at that point. The Commission will urge DEP to meet with them (and Island residents) soon. In other conversation at the meeting, the Commission discussed the DEP’s seagrass bed restoration, the probability of getting permit approval to dredge the Eastpoint Channel within 3-6 months (after many years of effort on this request), progress on getting the airport up to speed and the appointment of Fonda Davis as the Landfill Director, and other miscellaneous business.

Committees formed to study purchase of WMSI
Commissioner Pinki Jackel held a town hall meeting at the volunteer fire house on Tuesday, May 29 to discuss the ramifications of the purchase of the Island’s

water system (WMSI) by the City of Carrabelle. The meeting was attended by over 60 SGI owners, a representative from the City of Carrabelle and a couple of employees of WMSI. The consensus was that the stakeholders needed more time and information before it would be known if the potential purchase would be a positive or negative effect on the cost of water services to the businesses and residences on the Island.

A couple of committees were set up to study the situation and how to communicate this information to the stakeholders. The first committee was to look at the options available to the community (as was mentioned in the lead article in this newsletter). The volunteers on this committee are Newt Colston, Bud Hayes, Ed Aguilar, Tom Slocum, Karen Rudder, Don Murray, Duke Douglas and Barbara Sanders. The first meeting was on May 30, and they came up with the following assignments: To identify vehicles (pathways) for user ownership of the water system, to identify other “buyers” of the SGI water system (city, co-ops, *(See Page 3, Committees)*)

(Committees, from page two) private, etc.) and methods of obtaining funding, if needed.

The second committee is to determine how to best get the information out. The members of that committee are Gail Riegelmayr, Fran Giknis, Jane Nipps and Eric Roberts.

Everyone agreed that the purchase process needs to be slowed down to enable affected parties time to determine what is best for the Island.

Curt Blair, Franklin County Tourist Development Council Speaks

The speaker at the May meeting of the St. George Island Civic Club was Curt Blair, Administrator of the Franklin County Tourist Development Council.



Curt Blair

Curt Blair has been an investor and award winning developer in Apalachicola for over ten years. Curt actively participates in the community's future development as a licensed Realtor and mortgage

broker, member of the local Planning and Zoning Board, Vice Chairman of the local hospital board of directors, and through his association with the county's Tourist Development Council. He is also the owner and president of Allyn, Inc. a governmental consulting and management company. He is also a principal owner of the Water Street Hotel & Marina. Curt and his wife Beth live in a one hundred year old home in Apalachicola's historic district.

Upcoming Events:

Mullet Toss - SGI

Saturday, June 9

This is an annual event that takes place on the second Saturday of June each year. The Mullet Toss is sponsored by The Blue Parrot for the benefit of the Apalachicola bay Charter School. For a \$25.00 entry fee you get a unique Mullet Toss T Shirt, and 2 mullet to throw.

There are prizes for the longest throws in the men's, women's and kids divisions. Located on the Blue Parrot Beach 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

Apalachicola - "Catch the Buzz" - Honoring Tupelo Honey



JUNE 9

June is bee pollination month

and Downtown Apalachicola is celebrating "The Honey Bee" with a day featuring local bee keepers, artist demonstrations, bee related products, like our famous Tupelo Honey, and honey infused menus.

Gardens Inc. will have Local beekeeper Kevin Reeder Katie McFarland is offering a 10% discount off her pottery.

All That Jazz will feature "Local Artist Bees" By Jan Ord's Hand Painted Glass Verandas will be serving Orange Blossom Beer and Tupelo Sweet and Spicy wings. Tamaras Cafe & The Owl have a honey special on their menu, too. The Honey Hole sells Watkins Famous Tupelo Honey. Coombs Inn celebrates by serving "Honey Buns" and "Honey" sweetened lemon iced tea in their beautiful parlor with the latest books on honey making and bees. Coombs Inn is giving a 20% discount on any of our "Honey" moon jacuzzi suites.

The schedule includes:

12 PM The Center for History, Culture and Art is featuring Franklin County multi-media "Local Hands" exhibit with an Artists' reception from 6-8 PM

1 PM Grady Market courtyard is hosting Paula Harmon, demonstrating her encaustic art using Watkins bees wax

3 PM Katie McFarland Courtyard is hosting local beekeeper Chris Clark

5 PM Medicine Shop is hosting bee expert George Watkins

6 PM The Green Door will

serve Honey Beer while you view a BEEdazzelling pollination video
8 PM Music in the Park
The goal is to move people around town from Two Gulls to the Bowery; Visiting beautiful shops and delicious restaurants while learning about the Apalachicola River that hosts the tupelo tree necessary to make world famous Tupelo Honey along with the diligent work of our bees.

Golf Gone Wild -Carrabelle
St. James Bay Golf Resort, Saturday, June 16, at 171 Laughing Gull Lane, Carrabelle - A golf tournament with CASH PRIZES and art auction to help injured and orphaned wildlife and birds. *Sponsored by Forgotten Coast TV and St. James Bay Golf Resort to benefit the Florida Wild Mammal Association.*
Come play an Audubon-sanctioned course and help wild animals. There will be a silent art auction and a photography presentation by award-winning nature photographer John Spohrer. Have a prime rib dinner with all the trimmings and enjoy the sponsored beer and wine bar.

Event Schedule

10:00 a.m. Registration.
Brunch bag. Driving range open.
11:45 a.m. Players meeting and rules.
12:00 noon Shotgun start.
4:00 p.m. Presentation of nature photography by John Spohrer. Silent auction open.
Beer & Wine bar open sponsored by Forgotten Coast

TV.
5:00 p.m. Awards ceremony and cash prizes distribution.
6:00 p.m. Prime Rib buffet open, \$30.
7:30 p.m. Silent auction distribution.

Golf Format

* Shotgun start, four player teams, 18 hole Florida Scramble.
* 5 Mulligans allowed per player
* Two flights, prizes for first, second and third of each flight.
* 4 prizes for closest to pin.
* \$125 entry per person with \$50 of each entry going to cash prizes.

Registration

Make checks payable to: FWMA
(Florida Wild Mammal Association is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization)
Send checks:

Forgotten Coast TV
P.O. Box 848
Apalachicola, FL 32329

Silent Auction

Ends at 7:30 p.m. Exciting, high-value items with all proceeds going to help injured and orphaned wildlife and birds.

To donate an auction item please call Lois at (850) 653-5857.

Crooked River Grill

Enjoy a prime rib dinner buffet with all the trimmings and decadent desserts for only \$30. Starts at 6:00 p.m.

Nature Photography

Presentation

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Slide show by John Spohrer telling the stories behind the images of his award-winning work and a preview of images from his

new large-format book, "The Seasons of Apalachicola Bay".

For more information or help registering call Lynne Cooper, Events Coordinator, at 850-697-9507.

3rd Annual King Buster Fishing Tournament - Carrabelle

Saturday, June 23 at 501 St. James Avenue (Highway 98), Carrabelle
Three days of tournaments, over the course of three months. Entry Fee is \$100 per boat, per tournament.
Fishing Hours: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. There are three chances to win each tournament.

Sponsored by Millard Collins, Dock Master of C-Quarters Marina. 20% of the registration fees go to Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Central and Northern Florida.

Summer Bingo begins

The first Summer bingo was held June 5 with over 80 participants. Steve Childers was the Bingo caller. Also volunteering were Jimmy & Phyllis Lewis, Fran & Ann Giknis, Eric & Sherri Roberts and Jim Duncan.

Visit our website at:

www.sgcivicclub.org

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