

THE FEBRUARY ISLANDER

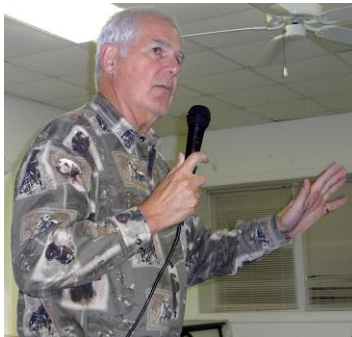
Next meeting February 21 - Social 6:30 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Hall

at the SGI Firehouse, 324 E. Pine Avenue

BYOB and a covered dish

Franklin County approves Vote on MSBU Rate Increase

SGI Civic Club member Steve Kearney told the members at the January meeting that Franklin County Commission approved a motion to hold a special election Tuesday, May 14 for an increase in the rate of MSBU taxes for the St. George Island volunteer fire department. If approved it would raise the amount each homeowner pays yearly from \$50 to \$96.



Steve Kearney (File Photo)

The county commission held a public hearing on Jan. 15 to discuss setting MSBU rates for seven fire districts, an increase from five districts. All property owners within the county must pay a fee beginning at \$10 for undeveloped land which increases according to use. Single-

family residences pay \$50 annually.

As reported in a story written by Lois Swoboda for the Apalachicola Times, "Jay Abbott, president of the countywide firefighters' association requested commissioners pass an ordinance creating seven independent fire districts with the same boundaries as existing fire service districts, and stipulating that each could request changes in MSBU based on need." Abbott, also chief of the St. George Island fire department, said St. George Island must have two fire stations to cover the district due to requirements set by the International Organization for Standardization. Mason Bean SGI Civic Club Board member said that an MSBU "is the only way to pay these rural fire departments. The increase is only two cases of beer a year."

Steve Kearney told the Commission that the (See MSBU, page 2)

Head of the Estuarine Nature Center Speaks on Native Birds

Matthew Anderson of the Apalachicola Estuarine Nature Center in Eastpoint entertained the members at the January meeting with a presentation of local birds of the Forgotten Coast. He explained the foraging



Matthew Anderson

habits of Eagles, Ospreys, Hawks and Owls and dispelled some myths. He also talked about song birds and brought laughter from the crowd as he mimicked a few bird calls.

Full Moon Climb at Cape St. George Lighthouse

The Full Moon Climb in February will be held at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island on Saturday, February 25. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 5:30 (See Lighthouse, page2)

(MSBU, from page 1)
 thunderstorm last year reduced the profit from the chili cook-off by 50 percent. The SGI fire department said that in a poll of Island home owners almost 98% agreed that the MSBU be raised. In the article, Abbot was quoted as saying "the island fire department responds to calls every day. He said there are sometimes 10,000 visitors on the island."

(Lighthouse, from page 1)
 p.m. to 7:00 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 6:12 p.m. and the moon will rise at 6:03 p.m. on February 25.

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. The Cape St. George Light is located in St. George Lighthouse Park at the center of St. George Island, where Island Drive (the road off the bridge) ends at Gulf Beach Drive. Parking is available in lots at either side of the park. Because

space is limited, reservations are recommended. For reservations or more information, please contact the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.

Winter Bingo Begins

Winter Bingo is here on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.



We have started this year averaging about \$300 a night and over 25 players with a high of 52. The cost to play is \$1 per card per game. The money from Bingo is split between the players and the SGI Volunteer Fire Department. Businesses on the Island also provide door prizes.

Upcoming Events

Snowbird Day Tuesday, February 5 Winter visitors to St George Island can look forward to some special treatment next month when the Island hosts its second SGI Snowbird Day on Tuesday, February 5, 2013. Events will include a raffle "run" to the local businesses, fishing tournament, lighthouse climb, state park entry and

hike, island tour, bridge walk, bingo, a visit to the new Estuarine Nature Center, and dinner with a cash bar.

Register at any St. George Island vacation rental company.

Catfish Moon February 8 & 9 Catfish Moon by Panhandle Players Dessert Theatre present A Southern Comedy, by Laddy Sartin

Directed by Dan Wheeler

Benedict Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church

Tickets \$ 20.00. For tickets contact John Inzetta at (850) 734-2060.

SGI 2nd Annual Tour of Homes Saturday, February 9 Featuring beautiful homes from the beach to the bay, along with the Lighthouse, Keeper's House, and Plantation Club House. The event is a



fundraiser for the St. George Lighthouse Association and proceeds will be used for enhanced exhibits at the Lighthouse Museum as well as upkeep of the Lighthouse, Keeper's House, and Park. Tour hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and tickets are available at \$15 in advance *(See Tour, Page 3)*

(Tour, from page 2)

at the Lighthouse Gift Shop. Call the Gift Shop at 850-927-7745 to purchase card. Tickets will also be available in Lighthouse Park on the day of the Tour for \$20. Tour weekend will kick-off Friday evening, February 8, with a free opening event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Jay Abbott Firehouse at 324 East Pine Avenue. Featured speaker will be Erik Lovstrand of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be awarded. www.sgitourofhomes.com for more details.

Bob Milne Ragtime Piano

The top ragtime/boogie-woogie pianist in the world, Bob delights



audiences with his piano-playing pyrotechnics and his infectious enthusiasm for the music and the history behind the music. At the Dixie for his 14th year! Order tickets at 850-653-3200.

Forgotten Coast Chef's Sampler Join us for the dining experience of the year at the 17th Annual Forgotten Coast Chef's Sampler Sunday, February, 10. This annual event features chefs from all over the Forgotten Coast preparing their most creative dishes at the historic Fort Coombs Armory located on 4th Street and Avenue D in Apalachicola. Tickets are \$50. Reservations are recommended; call 850-653-9419.

African-American History Festival

This two day festival showcases African American History, Art, and Culture in Apalachicola. Saturday begins with the festival parade at 10 am followed by the official opening ceremonies. There will be live entertainment throughout the two day event. Friday, February 15, 2013 through Sunday, February 17, 2013 More information at www.hcola.org

Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play

Dixie Theatre February 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 24. Spies, murder, love, and other trademarks of Alfred Hitchcock come to life in the style of a 1940s radio broadcast complete with vintage commercials, a daring train chase, a serial killer's ominous presence, and a

devastating explosion through the magic of live sound effects and music.

Souper Book & Bread Sale

Friends of the Franklin County Public Library Sat. Feb. 16, 2013 10 a.m.– 2 p.m. Sea Oats Gallery, 128 E. Pine Avenue, St. George Island.

Delicious homemade soups and breads plus great used books of all kinds! Enjoy a bowl while you browse, or buy a quart for dinner. All proceeds benefit the county libraries in Eastpoint and Carrabelle. Want to donate books or have questions? Call Anna Carmichael at 850-370-6763.

Columbus ships "Pinta" & "Nina" in Carrabelle

On Friday, February 22nd, the 'Pinta' and the 'Nina', replicas of Columbus' ships will open in Carrabelle. The ships will be docked at The Moorings Marina, 1000 NW Avenue A, until February 28.

The 'Nina' was built completely by hand and without the use of power tools. Archaeology magazine called her "the most historically correct Columbus replica ship ever built." The 'Pinta' was recently built in Brazil to accompany the 'Nina' on all of her travels. She is a *(See Columbus, Page 4)*

(Columbus, from Page 3)

larger version of the archetypal caravel.

Historians consider the caravel the space Shuttle of the fifteenth century.

While in port, the general public is invited to visit the ships for a walk aboard self-guided tour. The prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$7.00 for senior citizens and \$6.00 for students 5 to 16. Children 4 and under are Free. The ship will be open every day from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. No reservations necessary.

Teachers or organizations wishing to schedule a 30 minute guided tour with a crew member should call 1 787 672 2152. Minimum of 15. \$5.00 per person. No Maximum.

Florida Girls at the Dixie Theatre Nancy Hasty returns to the Dixie stage on Wednesday, February 27 through Saturday, March 2 she brings her one-woman show with 15 hilarious true-to-life characters to the Forgotten Coast of Florida.

It's time to renew for 2013. Dues are \$20 per person and checks should be made out to SGI Civic Club and mailed to P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328. They can also be turned in at a SGI Civic Club meeting. Please include your email address.

March

St. George Island Charity Chili Cookoff March 2

Contestants will compete in the largest regional chili cookoff in the nation and vie for a spot in the National Chili Cookoff. The weekend begins with a golf tournament at 8:00 AM Thursday, February 28 at St. James Golf Course.



\$100 entry fee includes green fee, cart, practice balls, goody bag & prizes. Then on Friday, the Auction Art Preview is from 5:00 in the afternoon to 7:00 in the evening at the island's firehouse (324 E. Pine Ave.). For a \$5 donation, you may preview many of the art items that will available at the next day's auction. Saturday includes the 5K Red Pepper Run (8:00 AM), the amateur Crock Pot contest with judging (10-11:00), the Auction beginning at 11:00, booth showmanship judging (11:30 - 12:15), Miss Chili Pepper and Mr. Hot Sauce judging (starting at 12:15), taste awards (3:30). Held in the

center of the island. \$5 entry fee. Proceeds benefit the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders.

Camp Gordon Johnston

Days The Annual Camp Gordon Johnston Reunion Days were established to celebrate historic wartime Carrabelle and the service of our veterans from WWII to present. The Camp Gordon Johnston Association has announced the 2013 schedule. All veterans and their family, friends, and supporters are invited to Carrabelle from Thursday, March 7, 2013 through Saturday, March 9, 2013. Call (850)697-8575 for more information.

Maharajah Flamenco

Back for their 2nd season at the Dixie on Friday, March 8, these musicians are truly amazing! High-energy, daring, soulful world music. Argentine tango, Brazilian samba, Latin/Caribbean rhythm...a dynamic expression of Flamenco Nuevo. For more information, call 850-653-3200.

Sarah Mac Band

Friday, March 15 The Dixie House Band is back for their 4th season and nobody does it better...exceptional vocals and strong, smart lyrics bring a joyous blend of blues, rock, jazz and soul. *(See Sarah, Page 5)*

(Sarah, from Page 4)

Catch 'em before they hit it big, cause they're gonna.

For more information, call 850-653-3200.

The Ned Divines Band

Saturday, March 16 Dixie Theatre Back for their 3rd season, the Ned's brought the house down on their last 2 visit. We're all Irish on St Paddy's weekend!

For more information, call 850-653-3200.

Visit our website:

www.sgi civicclub.org for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area

Pictures from New Year's Eve Bonfire



From Left: Ann Giknis, Fran Giknis, Sherri Roberts, Linda Childress & Steve Childress



Henry Koslowski Helping out the DJ



Bonfire



Keeping warm at the Bonfire

Review of 2012



Gail Riegelmayer and Elaine Rosenthal at 4th of July Parade



Marilyn Bean & Jim Dunkin banking at Bingo



Lighthouse and Keeper's Museum

2013 Board of Directors
Newt Colston President 927-3001 Steve Childers Vice-President schilders1946@hotmail.com 927-2909 Ann Giknis Treasurer giknis@fairpoint.net 927-3647 Eric Roberts Secretary/Editor egrob2@fairpoint.net 927-3082 Directors: Terry Kemp fullmoon.sgi@fairpoint.net 927-2000 Fred Stanley 927-3477 fred_stanley3@yahoo.com Lon Wilkens 927-4298 Penny wilkens@charter.net Mailing Address: P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328