

# THE MARCH ISLANDER

Next meeting March 21 in the Civic Hall at the SGI Firehouse, 324 E. Pine Avenue

Social 6:30 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Susan Bassett on Plein Air Exhibit

*BYOB and a covered dish*

## Franklin County Commissioner Pinki Jackel speaks at February meeting

Franklin County Commissioner and SGI Civic Club member Pinki Jackel made a report to the members present on the status of the fishing bridge repair and other actions taken by the Commission.



*Pinki Jackel*

The Commission has awarded a contract to Gulf Group of Southport Florida for repairs to damages caused by a wayward barge during Tropical Storm Debby in 2012. The repair will span the open bridge and will be supported by new pilings. It won't be as wide as the original bridge, but will be in the same style. It will be in a hour glass style with it more narrow in the middle.

She also spoke about how Restore Florida will have money for Franklin County from the BP settlement, but doesn't know yet how the distribution will be done. Civic Club members Rick Watson and Pat O'Connell will be on the Franklin County Board.

**It's time to renew memberships 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.**

### Why we ask for email Addresses

Our predicted costs of printing the newsletter and then using the U.S. Postal Service to mail them out is expected to be around \$1,200 for 2013. Our cost to email them is zero. When you consider that the costs of ink, paper and stamps are going up each year, zero costs are preferred. If you have an

email address, please help us by sending it to [sgicivicclub@gmail.com](mailto:sgicivicclub@gmail.com).

### Ellen Ashdown Makes Plea for Franklin County Library

SGI Civic Club member Ellen Ashdown gave a presentation at the February Civic Club on the progress of the new Franklin County Library in Eastpoint. She said the present library has run out



*Ellen Ashdown*

of space. They have chosen a contractor and hope to be ready to move this summer.

### Civic Club to send out Revisions to By-laws

Eric Roberts was asked by President Newt Colston to chair a group to review a by-law revision written in 2010 but not acted upon. Along with Carol Talley (*See By-Laws, page 2*)

*(By-Laws, from page 1)* and Tom Wood, who were on the 2010 committee, and Cecilia Harris, some items were updated and some were edited for errors in grammar and typos. The main revisions from the 2010 committee were not changed. The revisions will be sent out by email and the U.S. Postal Service in the beginning of March for comments from the members. These comments need to be returned to [sgicivicclub@gmail.com](mailto:sgicivicclub@gmail.com) or P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328 by March 31. The comments will be reviewed and the revised by-laws will be sent out by April 10 for voting by members. The voting will be an up or down vote, not for or against individual by-laws. These votes must be into the Civic Club no later than April 30 with the results given at the May meeting.

### **SGI Tour of Homes Results**

The 2013 St. George Island Tour of Homes reported that over 500 participants toured with the assistance of more than 100 volunteers, and raised just over \$8,000.00 for the Cape St. George Lighthouse. Tour proceeds will help fund maintenance and enhancement of the Lighthouse, Keeper's

House Museum, and Lighthouse Park in the coming year.

These results represent about a 30 per cent increase in attendance and revenues over last year's inaugural Tour event. This success would not have been possible without the commitment, dedication, and boundless energy that our volunteers brought to the event.

Based on the data collected from our survey cards (with an excellent 48 per cent return ratio), TOH visitors came from 28 states and two foreign countries. Many were snowbirds. About 23 per cent of the respondents were from Florida, representing 16 cities and towns all over the state. Comments were overwhelmingly positive and complimentary, and almost all respondents said they would participate in another SGI Tour of Homes, with many already looking forward to next year.

### **Winter Bingo**

Winter Bingo is here on Tuesdays through March.



This year Bingo is 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 Civic Club. Businesses on the Island also provide door prizes. So far this winter, with 5 more weeks to go, Bingo has added \$1,200 to the Civic Club bank account.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### ***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.

#### **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 *(See Chili, page 3)*

*(Chili, from page 2)*

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 be 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 through Saturday, March 9. 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.

#### ***La Florida and the Maritime World Lecture***



Saturday, March 9, 2013  
103 Water Street,  
Apalachicola 7 - 9:00 PM  
Peter Cowdrey, Exhibit Research Specialist at the Florida Historic Capitol Museum, is an expert on Spanish exploration, navigation, and charts in Florida. \$5 includes reception. For more information, call 850-653-2500 or go to [www.ammfl.org](http://www.ammfl.org)

#### ***Wish I was in Dixie: an evening of New Orleans Songwriters*** – Dixie

Theatre Saturday 9 March at 8 PM, Tickets \$25/each  
JON RONIGER is truly a unique slice of American songwriting, blending New Orleans style jazz & blues with folk story telling. Touring internationally since 2003, his record "Charmed Life" saw regular spins on BBC, BBC Whales and BBC Scotland and National broadcast Radio Amsterdam. His 2010 release "Someone Else" and the 2007 release "Charmed Life" have placements on HGTV, Platinum Babies and the theme song for a UK based company Bedford for Beds. Roniger's song "Redneck Riviera" has been licensed for a full length feature film called "Island of Fantasy". His 2012 release "NOLA Rolls" showcases the timeless quality of a seasoned songwriter and the unique musical style that only a New Orleans native could produce. Recently selected for The 2011, '12 and '13 French Quarter Festival, The 2011, '12 and '13 Key West Songwriters Festival and the highly acclaimed 2013 Wednesday at The Square in New Orleans, *(See Dixie, page 4)*

*(Dixie, from page 3)*

Roniger has played such renowned venues as Nashville's Blue Bird Cafe, Atlanta's Eddie's Attic, San Francisco's Great American Music Hall, Colorado's Boulder Theatre and New Orleans' House of Blues.

KRISTIN DIABLE's voice is a formidable instrument, Dusty Springfield sass couched in Norah Jones seduction. On the crisply produced "Kristin Diable & the City," she deploys that voice on a set of poised, mature, original Americana compositions. She and her fluent, simpatico band, the City, tease out slow-burn, sensual, ruminations on love, loss and desire. One of the city's stars-in-waiting. The Times Picayune, listed "Kristin Diable & The City" as one of the best of 2012 record (right next to Dr. John!). The record is also nominated for an Offbeat Magazine "Best of the Beat" Award for best Folk/Country/Songwriter Album.

***Dam to the Bay Paddle Event***

Saturday, March 16 through Friday, March 22. Join Paddle Florida for six days on the Ochlockonee River, part of Florida's statewide trail system. The trip begins at Ed and Bernice's Fish

Camp near State Road 20 and ends at the Bald Point State Park on Alligator Point. For more information go to [paddleflorida.org/och/ochlockonee.html](http://paddleflorida.org/och/ochlockonee.html)

***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. Catch 'em before they hit it big, cause they're gonna. For more information, call 850-653-3200.

***Eastpoint Fire Dept Charity Rib Cookoff***

The 12th Annual Eastpoint Volunteer Fire Department Charity Rib Cookoff. Saturday March 16th at the fire house in Eastpoint, Florida. The event is located at the corner of 6th St and CC Land Rd in Eastpoint, one block north



of US Hwy 98. This year's event promises to be the biggest ever with our competitors cooking more ribs than ever. In addition

to the cooking competition we will have a Car Show, Silent auction and live entertainment and back by popular demand, the Liars Contest. Rides and face painting for the kids. Free admission and the gates open at 9:00 am. BBQ dinners will be served from 11:00 am till it's all gone. There will also be a Silent Auction preview and open mike entertainment Friday March 15th from 5:00 till 7:00. For more information or to enter the cookoff or be a sponsor contact George Pruett at 850-670-9000 or by E-mail at [pru911@gtcom.net](mailto:pru911@gtcom.net)

***The Dixie Does Nashville***

Friday, March 22 through Saturday, March 23 at The Dixie Theatre at 21 Avenue E. Once again Pat Higdon brings his finest, most talented writers to the Dixie. One of our most beloved music series always sells out quickly. For more information call 850-653-3200 or go to [www.dixietheatre.com](http://www.dixietheatre.com)

***St. Vincent Island Annual Open House***

March 22 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM The Supporters of St Vincent (a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization) sponsor this annual open house to provide a day of easy *(See St. Vincent, page 5)*

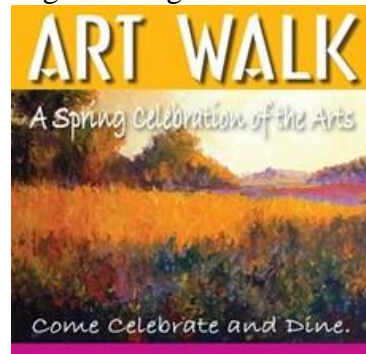


*(St. Vincent, from page 4)*  
 access to Franklin County's St Vincent Island for people to enjoy a free full day of nature-related activities. Free transport to/from the island will be provided hourly. Guided tours and exhibits will allow people to learn about the island's protected wildlife, diverse ecosystems, and history as well as enjoy the unspoiled beauty of this unique pristine uninhabited refuge. These services including educational talks/discussions will be provided by numerous volunteers from the Supporters and various community organizations. The guided tours will be both walking and vehicular. Light snacks and bottled water will be available. For more information, go to [www.stvincentfriends.com](http://www.stvincentfriends.com)

**Apalachicola ArtWalk**  
 Saturday, March 23 Fine art in all forms will be woven in and around picturesque downtown Apalachicola where artists will be showing, selling and demonstrating their talents from 11:00-6:00 pm. Festivities continue into the afternoon with a progressive wine tasting and hors d'oeuvre from 3:00-5:00 pm at area restaurants. Later in the

evening local chefs will prepare special dishes at their restaurants highlighting our fresh local ingredients.

At 8:00 pm the Dixie Theatre presents The Dixie Does Nashville. Pat Higdon brings



some of the finest and most talented writers working in Nashville to the Dixie to perform the hits they wrote for music legends like George Strait, The Dixie Chicks, Kenny Rogers, Rascal Flatts, Tim McGraw, Kenny Chesney, to name a few...don't miss the extraordinary, magical evening that is sure to be in store for those lucky enough to attend this year's version. For more information call (850) 653-9419, or go to [www.apalachicolabay.org](http://www.apalachicolabay.org).

***Elvis & Friends do the Dixie***

Friday, March 29 through Saturday, March 30 Spectacular tribute artist Todd Alan Herendeen & his Follow That Dream Band have become one of the Dixie Theatre's most

popular shows...Johnny Cash and Roy Orbison,



among others. For more information call 850-653-3200 or go to [www.dixietheatre.com](http://www.dixietheatre.com)

***Jury Room by Panhandle Players***

A Drama by C.B. Gilford Directed by Margy Oehlert April 19- 21 at the Dixie Theatre in Apalachicola. Tickets \$ 15.00. For tickets contact John Inzetta at (850) 734-2060.

**Visit our website:**

[www.sgcivicclub.org](http://www.sgcivicclub.org) for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area

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