

THE DECEMBER ISLANDER

Next meeting December 19 at SGI Volunteer Fire House

Social at 6:30 pm and dinner at 7:00 There will not be a speaker at our annual Christmas Dinner

BYOB and a covered dish

Commissioner Pinki Jackel was November Speaker

District One County Commissioner Pinki Jackel brought the membership present up-to-date on issues concerning St. George Island and Franklin County. Pinki was told she had 10 minutes by President Newt Colston, but was still answering questions from the audience 45 minutes later.



She began with an update on the construction around the boat ramp on the Island end of the Bridge damaged during TS Isaac. The breakwater is being rebuilt with sheet pile walls and the road and parking lot will be completely repaved. The rocks stacked on the road's edge will be used to back fill the new

It is time to renew memberships for 2014. It is \$20 per member. Checks can be made out to SGI Civic Club and mailed to P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328

revetment wall. Construction should be completed by year's end. The fishing pier construction is complete and being used daily. A \$10,000 grant from the state will be used to add approx 28 palm trees along Island Drive between the SGI Bridge and Eastpoint. This will be a 3-5 year project to beautify the approach to SGI. The County Commission rejected the 2% bed tax the Tourist Development Council proposed to them. The Commission chose to send the decision to the voters of Franklin County by referendum sometime next year. Commissioner Jackel also addressed the condition of the Bay. She stressed the impact of the water wars between Georgia, Alabama and Florida as one of the *(See Pinki, Page Two)*

Civic Club Business Topics

President Newt Colston brought up a suggestion to allow a business membership option to the SGI Civic Club. After much discussion, a motion was made to table the discussion until the next meeting.

He also announced the nominations for next year's Board of Directors. A motion was made to accept the nominations and they were approved by vote. Our Board of Directors for 2014 are: Steve Childers, President
Chris Jensen, Vice President
Linda Thurman, Secretary
Mike O'Connell, Treasurer
Fred Stanley, Director-at-large
Lon Wilkens, Director-at-large
Newt Colston, Immediate Past President

Island Lights Festival

The annual St. George Island Lights Festival will once again be held on the first Friday in December, the 6th.

The event will be held at mid-island in St. George Lighthouse Park *(See Island Lights, Page Two)*

(Pinki, from Page One)
major problems of getting Apalachicola River water into the Bay. This is being addressed by Governor Scott and almost every elected representative from the Panhandle. The economy has also added to the problems in the Bay by the increase in oyster harvesting permits from approx 500 in years past to over 2000 this year, resulting in over-harvesting. Oystermen are gathering an average of 3 bags a day at \$45 a bag, not enough to feed, clothe and house a family of 4. This is causing many people who depended on the Bay to move out of the county.
Pinki then began answering questions from the audience.
The first question was about financing the building of a new hospital in Apalachicola.
Several people questioned why we should build a new hospital at all.
Pinki reported that the 1% referendum passed some years ago requires the construction of a facility. The construction costs will be approximately \$10 million. The loan will be funded by USDA if approved. And so began a long discussion on the pluses and minuses of building a hospital that many felt did not serve the

needs of county residents. Finally, it was decided for each individual to ask questions after the meeting.
The next issue was the Leave No Trace Ordinance (turtle ordinance) regarding leaving umbrellas, chairs, and other items out overnight on all of the beaches in Franklin County. The discussion covered how the ordinance was going to be enforced. Pinki discussed efforts of the surrounding counties and how Franklin County is looking to follow their model with some revisions. Someone will likely be hired to help enforce the ordinance. The ordinance covers Gulf front property only in the county.
(Island Lights, from Page One)
The one mile "Jingle Jog" starts at 4:00 on the bike path in front of the park and proceeds through the business district. It's a fun run and everyone is welcome! All runners will receive Santa hats for their heads and jingle bells for their shoes. Runners should arrive a little before 4:00 to sign in. A \$5 per runner donation is suggested at the run. Santa is expected at 5:00. He will arrive by fire engine and provide gifts to children aged 10 and younger. Refreshments including cookies, coffee, and hot

chocolate will be provided to all. The island Scouts will be selling hotdogs. In the event of rain, many sturdy tents will be set up. View the lighting of the island palms at sundown. The event is hosted by the St. George Island Business Association. For more information, watch www.sgibusinesses.com/island-lights.
In the past, the business association has paid for the event with funds generated by the October Oyster Festival. But the festival has not been held for the past 2 years since it could not be supported with Franklin County oysters. Therefore, they are in need of financial help with the Lighting. Each year some of the lights must be replaced, and lots of toys are needed for the more than 100 kids that are expected. They intend to give each child a backpack of simple gifts. So, they are asking for donations to support the event. In particular, amounts of \$50 - \$100 would be appreciated. Checks should be made out to SGIBA and mailed to the SGI Business Association / PO Box 963 / Eastpoint, FL 32328. Another way to help is to provide cookies. They can be dropped by the park, in plastic bags of 3 to 4
(See Island Lights, Page 3)

(Island Lights, from Page two)
cookies each, after 4:00 on the day of the Lighting.

Upcoming Events

Holiday Fresh Market

Saturday, December 7.
Why fight the crowds and traffic at the malls? Come for the day or the weekend and find one-of-a-kind unusual presents. Shop in a relaxed, hassle free environment. Buy hand crafted Apalachicola specialties such as fresh seasonal wreaths, baked goods, artwork, wood carving, pottery, hand knitted goods. Your gift shopping has never been easier! Call (850) 653-9419 for details. Located in front of the Dixie Theatre Avenue E and Market Street.

Ilse Newell Concert: Bay Area Choral Society



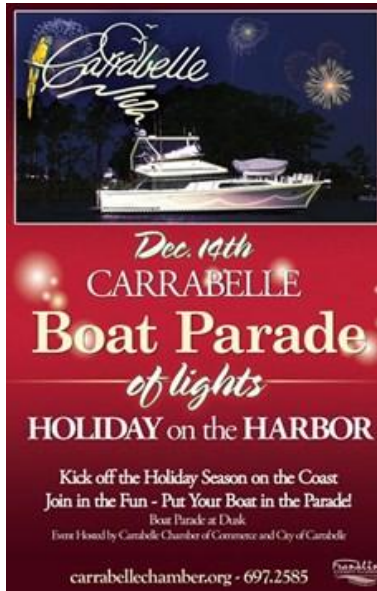
Sunday, December 8 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 79 Sixth Street, Apalachicola. Enjoy Holiday Favorites by the Bay Area Choral Society,

directed by Karl Lester with pianist Paul Marxsen.

Eastpoint Christmas Celebration

Join the fun filled holiday parade on US 98 in Eastpoint on Friday, December 13th. The parade starts at 4:00 pm. Bring your golf cart, convertible, pick-up truck or boat. We'll end at the Pavilion on Patton Drive where Santa will arrive by oyster boat, there will be caroling and Santa will listen to children's wishes.

Holiday on the Harbor & Boat Parade of Lights



Saturday, December 14, Marine Street will be glowing with lights, and the River Walk is the place for watching the decked out boat regatta. Stroll with old friends, make some

new ones, sip cider, see Santa (Carrabelle's Cris Cringle). Fun for the whole family! Boat Parade will begin around 7 pm. Santa will be at the Pavilion from 5-7 pm. Bring the kids! Vendors - Community groups will be selling festival food, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chicken Fingers and Christmas goodies. Local vendors will have unique gifts. The Winners and Awards will be announced at C-Quarters Marina after the parade. Music will be provided by Debbie Jordon. Interested in putting your boat in the parade? Call 850-697-2585 or download the [Information Sheet](#) and [Registration Form](#) or [Sign-up Online](#).

Sunset/Full Moon Climb



Monday, December 16 Climb to the top of the Cape St. George Light for stunning views of the setting sun and the rising moon. Light hors d'oeuvres *(See Lighthouse, Page 4)*

(Lighthouse, from Page 3) are accompanied by a sparkling cider toast to the Full Moon. Cost is \$15 for the general public and \$10 for SGLA members. After sunset, if space and time permit, additional climbers can view the Full Moon for \$10 or \$5 for SGLA members. Reservations are recommended. Please call the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.

New Year's Eve Bonfire and Dance on the Beach



Ring in the New Year on Tuesday, December 31 with a bonfire on the beach at Lighthouse Park on St George Island. A DJ will play rock and roll music for everyone's entertainment and dancing pleasure. The New Year will be enjoyed in Island Style. This event is sponsored by the St. George Island Civic Club and the Franklin County Tourist Development Council.

Tallahassee Swing Band
 Saturday, January 4
 Making their Dixie Theatre debut, this big band ensemble has been playing the 40's, 50's & 60's classics and more for 24 years!



The music will be sure to help you relive the best of times. So join us and tap, dance and sway to your heart's content. For more information, call 850-653-3200 or go to www.dixietheatre.com

Sock Hops & Soda Pops



January 8, 10, 11 (Wed. & Sat. at 3 PM Fri. & Sat. at 8 PM)

The Big Bopper's back and Murphy's Diner is rockin' around the clock in this outrageous, feel-good musical from the creators of Season 16's We Go Everywhere Together. Back from New York for their 2nd Season at the Dixie, Stephen & Jeff bring Magdalyn Donnelly to help us laugh our cares away, don't miss it cause it's gonna be fun, fun, fun! For more information, call 850-653-3200, or go to www.dixietheatre.com

Thanks to the Franklin County Tourist Development Council for Upcoming Events.
<http://www.saltyflorida.com/events>

Visit our website: www.sgicivicclub.org for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area. Email us at sgicivicclub@gmail.com

- 2013 Board of Directors**
Newt Colston President
 Newtcol@gmail.com 927-3001
Steve Childers Vice-President
 schilders1946@hotmail.com
 927-2909
Glynda Ratliff Treasurer
 gjratliff@aol.com 927-3888
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
 pennywilk@charter.net
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 451,
 Eastpoint, FL 32328