



The Islander

March 2014

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club

Should St. George Island be a Municipality?

The speaker at the February Civic Club meeting on the 20th was Lynn Tipton with the Florida League of Municipalities. Lynn was invited to speak about the possibility of St. George Island becoming incorporated. Her invitation was the result of a suggestion made at the January Carrabelle Commission meeting by land developer Gene Langston that Carrabelle take over the SGI water system and provide a sewage treatment plant. Since this was a subject brought up before to the Carrabelle City Commission and generally opposed by many Islanders, the Civic Club Board of Director's decided that we revisit the possibility of becoming a municipality. Lynn went over a nine-step outline of requirements if the registered voters of the

The next Club meeting is March 20.

Island decided to seek the status of a municipality. A full presentation was held on Thursday afternoon with a shorter version at the regular Civic Club meeting that night. Around 50 Civic Club members attended the afternoon meeting. After her presentation, Lynn fielded questions from the attendees. These questions included: cost, annual taxes, police, garbage, litter control and other items. Lynn said many of these services could stay the responsibility of Franklin County. The nine steps covered were:

1. Contact your Florida State representatives to inform them of your intentions.
2. Form a committee to work on various tasks.
3. Do a feasibility study.

4. Hold public hearings.
5. Meet back with your State representatives and present your study and a draft charter.
6. Submit a report paying attention to the Florida House of Representatives deadline.
7. Work with your representative to help with any questions.
8. Plan a local education campaign. The County Supervisor of Elections is very important.
9. Start of governance. Work with an effective start date to have persons run for election or hire persons to assist in staff work.

After last Thursday afternoon's presentation, Newt Colston asked for a *(See meeting, page 2)*

(Meeting, from page 1)
straw vote on whether or not to gather more information about SGI incorporation. He asked that only registered voters participate. Of the people who rose their hands, all voted to proceed. When Newt asked if anyone was opposed, no one indicated they were in opposition to proceeding. Lynn mentioned several types of governments that are possible:

- Contractual or Government Light
- Limited service with some contracts
- Full-service

A spreadsheet should be developed for a city budget using population figures and categories of service desired in a new city. Lynn also talked about how important it is to correctly estimate costs. The most common costs are notices of public meetings, recording of minutes, record storage, insurance, legal counsel, a city clerk and other related costs. The SGI Water District, formed during the potential Carrabelle purchase of 2012, is still an entity and has asked to be responsible for looking into other possibilities. The sale of Water Management is still on the table and their

involvement with statistics and engineering reports will help with this decision. Another aspect is what environmental and/or economic impact will this have or not have on the Island as a whole? The St. George Island Civic Club, St. George Island Forward (SGIF), the Plantation and SGI Water District will notify owners of our progress.

Upcoming Events ***St. George Island Charity Chili Cook-off***

The St George Island Regional Chili Cook off will take place on Friday, February 28 and Saturday, March 1. Friday, the Auction Art Preview is in the evening from 5 - 7 at the island's firehouse (324 E. Pine Ave.). Saturday's activities commence with the 5K Red Pepper Run at 8:00 am, Crock Pot Judging 10-11:00 am, the Auction begins at 11:00, professional chili competition booths start preparing chili at 10:00am, Miss Chili Pepper and Mr. Hot Sauce judging at 12:15pm, professional chili judging starts at 2:00pm with awards ceremony at 3:30. There is a \$5 entry fee. Proceeds benefit the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders. For more

information, call 850-927-2753.

Carrabelle Salt exhibit

The Carrabelle History Museum will present a special exhibit beginning March 1st about the history of salt in Florida. From uses during the Civil War and salt's role in early Florida settlements, the exhibit will feature early artifacts and memorabilia including vintage salt shakers.



Visit the Carrabelle History Museum at 106 Avenue B, SE, in the heart of downtown. The Museum is one block south of US 98. Turn south on Marine Street and left (east) at the first corner. The Museum is the third building on your left. We are within walking distance to the Carrabelle Visitors Center and the World's Smallest Police Station. The Carrabelle History Museum is open Thursdays, Fridays and *(See Carrabelle, Page 3)*

(Carrabelle, from Page 2)
Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm. We gladly open any other day by appointment except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Just call 850-697-2141 or 850-524-1153 to arrange a tour. Field trips and buses are welcome. Entry to the Museum is free but donations are always welcome.

Rio Carrabelle Art Gallery

The Rio Carrabelle Art Gallery in Carrabelle will host a unique photography exhibit beginning this month. Photographer and adventurer John Guider presents the images which were taken as part of a solo voyage along the Gulf and Atlantic Coast.

The exhibit entitled “The River Inside – a Personal Journey” includes photographs that were taken from a small boat during a series of Guider’s solo voyages down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, east along the Gulf Coast, around the Big Bend to Key West, then up the Atlantic Coast to New York City and the Hudson River to the Great Lakes. The exhibit of these extraordinary photographs opens March 1 at Rio Carrabelle, 102 St James Avenue, downtown Carrabelle. For more information regarding

exhibit visit
www.johnguider.com.

Carrabelle Annual Camp Gordon Johnston Days

This reunion was established to celebrate the historic Carrabelle wartime museum and the service of veterans, from WWII and beyond. Veterans and their families are invited to join us in Carrabelle on Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8th. The Camp Gordon Johnston Post 82, American Legion in Lanark Village, on the evening of the 7th will host a Low Country Boil for all WWII veterans, active duty troops, American Legion members and their guests. Live music will add to the evening festivities.



All veterans are encouraged to attend this event. All participants are invited to begin on Saturday, March 8th with breakfast at the Masonic Lodge in Carrabelle, located on NE 1st street. Breakfast will be served starting at 0700 hours and will be free to active duty troops and WWII veterans. All others will pay \$7.00 at

the door. At 10 A.M., a parade will be held on Highway 98 in Carrabelle, and will feature WWII vehicles, tanks and modern military equipment. Civic groups and re-enactors will also participate in the parade festivities. The public is cordially invited to attend the parade, paying special tribute to veterans in all branches of service and from all wartime and peacetime efforts.

A highlight of the weekend will be Saturday evening’s Camp Gordon Johnston Days Dinner Dance at 6:00 P.M. Join us above the C-Quarters Marina, on Hwy 98, Carrabelle. for an evening of fun overlooking the beautiful Carrabelle River as we gather to celebrate the World War II era with veterans, family and friends! Admission is \$10.00 per person, no charge for WWII and Active Duty Troops.

Apalachicola – Dixie Theatre

Saturday, March 8 at 8 PM spectacular tribute artist Todd Allen Herendeen returns with his Follow That Dream Band for their 5th Season at the Dixie. An outstanding and talented performer, Todd is an incredible showman and he and his Family are here *(See Dixie, Page 4)*

(Dixie, from Page 3)

one night only...so be sure to catch our much loved friends joined by Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison and more. For more information, call 850-653-3200 or go to www.dixietheatre.com

St. George Island

Climb to the top of the Cape St. George Lighthouse on Sunday, March 16 from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. to view the sunset and full moonrise. Admission is \$15 (\$10 for St. George Lighthouse Association members and includes snacks and a sparkling cider toast to the full moon. After sunset, additional climbers can view the full moon as time and space allow for \$10 (\$5 for SGLA members). Please call the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745 to make reservations as space is restricted.

Apalachicola

On Saturday, March 15, Authors in Apalach begins its third year offering an event that gathers authors, photographers, historians and others who live in or otherwise represent this wonderful "Forgotten Coast" area. As a uniquely historical "Old Florida" town, Apalachicola and its surrounding natural environs inspires many creative people and those

attending will be sure to be inspired, too. This year's event will honor the works of two retired professors whose writings about Apalachicola are the basis of much that we know about our history. Numerous other authors will represent fictional and non-fiction works based North Florida. The Fort Coombs Armory will be open with authors and booksellers from 10AM to 5PM, with a reception to follow. Forums on history, writing and publishing, children's books and environment writing will occur throughout the day. The event is free to the public.

13th Annual Eastpoint Volunteer Fire Department Charity Rib Cookoff

Saturday March 15th at the fire house in Eastpoint at Vroom Park. The event is located at the corner of 6th St and CC Land Road, one block north of US Hwy 98. This year's event will be the biggest with our competitors cooking more ribs than ever. There will be lots of great ribs and pulled pork with all the trimmings and Oma's Apple Dumplings are always a big hit. If you would like to enter the rib competition or just volunteer some time to help, contact any Fire Dept

member. For more info or to join, contact Eastpoint Fire Chief George Pruett at pru911@fairpoint.net or call 850-670-9000. Free admission and the gates open at 9:00 am. BBQ dinners will be served from 11:00 am until it is all gone.

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

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