



The Islander

October 2014

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club

Advocates for a hired School Superintendent address September Club Meeting

Franklin County School Board member Pam Shiver and concerned citizens Dotty Thornburg and Dean Vail spoke to Civic Club members about the November 4th binding referendum to change the Superintendent from an elected position to a hired position.



Pam Shiver and Dotty Thornburg

They each gave reasons for a Hired Superintendent: The Superintendent of Schools needs a broad range of demonstrated skills to be successful in today's complex educational environment. The Franklin County Superintendent must be competent to manage a twenty-three million dollar budget funded by your taxes.

At the present time, anyone aged 18 and a registered Franklin County voter may run for the office of Superintendent. A candidate has a guaranteed job for four years and is accountable to their political
(See Superintendent, Page 2)

Club members vote on how to distribute donations from Civic Club

President Steve Childers brought the results of our contribution committee's suggested recipients to be voted on by the members present. After the discussion, the vote resulted in the following donations:

Painting entrance sign. \$500
SGI Business Assoc. kids Christmas \$500
Eastpoint Library \$2,000
Apalachicola Riverkeeper \$100
Eastpoint Food Bank \$2,500
Boy/Girl Scouts \$200
Humane Society \$300
SGI Cat Allies \$500
Additional planting of Palm trees \$1,000
Repair Christmas figurines \$500



Sonny Crosby from the Eastpoint Food Bank accepts the donation of \$2,500 from Club Secretary Linda Thurman

The October meeting is our annual Luau at Lighthouse Park. Bring a side dish and enjoy the pig that Mason Bean will be cooking all day. There will be no speaker or agenda. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. or come by earlier.

SGI Cat Allies also speak at September meeting

Helen Gore and Cathy Buell came to the October Civic Club meeting to introduce members to their new organization, Saint George Island Cat Allies. The organization was formed in November, 2013, to humanely promote the welfare of the community cats on the Island.



Cathy Buell

at the Buccaneer Inn. They were going to the Beach Pit next to work on that colony.

They are looking for volunteers to help identify and trap the various cat colonies. They need volunteers to feed and monitor the colonies, educate the community on humane colony practices, and to place adoptable cats in forever homes. Their website is www.sgicatallies.com and donations can be made on the website.

(Superintendent, From Page 1)
supporters.

All 3 speakers think the Superintendent should be a knowledgeable, experienced

Cathy stated that they have started a Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return) program on the Island. They had just trapped and neutered a colony of cats

educator, and possess the administrative skills necessary to oversee important and expensive school functions including budget and finance, the school facilities, technology investments, transportation, personnel, and food service. Citizens' voices will be more effective because the elected School Board serves for policy setting on behalf of the public in matters of the school system allowing the hired Superintendent to focus on principles of the profession and management, not politics.

A highly trained and experienced professional can more effectively manage the budget, 204 employees, and 940 students to produce quality education



Dean Vail

complete rigorous training, have management experience and have the required certifications before they are hired. Superintendents currently hired in 99% of the nation's school districts and 26 districts in the State of Florida. All of these 26 counties have maintained a "B" or higher school grade.

An applicant can be recruited from inside or outside Franklin County potentially bringing new skills and innovative practices.

(See Superintendent, Page 3)

Accountability is clear and job roles defined.

When a Superintendent is hired, they can devote full-time to running the schools, not running for office.

An applicant must be a professional educator,

(Superintendent, From Page 2)

The following questions, answers and statements were handed out to the members present:

How can Franklin County get onboard with change for better schools?

Vote YES to the referendum for an appointed superintendent on November 6th ballot! Over the next two years the Florida School Board Association (FSBA) will work with the School Board and citizens of Franklin County to find the best possible applicant to fit the needs of our schools. A Citizen Advisory Committee will be chosen to work with the FSBA to narrow the recommendations to the top five applicants. Then the School Board will make the selection from the finalists. This process takes politics out and puts the citizen's voice into the process! The Superintendent will be selected based on skills, experience, recommendations and demonstrated leadership qualities. The CEO of our school will be free to focus on improving education, executing policy, and day-to-day school management.

Common Concerns Expressed by Citizens

(1). I do not want to give up my right to vote!
Ask yourself how effective your vote has been. The K-12 school grade of "D" is unacceptable and its financial stability has wavered in recent years.

(2). This will allow the school board to have too much power.
The school board will not have exclusive power through the building of a resume nor in the interview process. The Florida School Board Association will work with the

community and a committee of involved citizens to filter the hiring process to a small selection of 3-5 applicants for the board to make the final selection. This process will eliminate any potential political influence. The School Board and Superintendent would be bound to uphold Florida Statute, Department of Education rules, Local Policies and Procedures, and a contract between the Superintendent and the board, thus eliminating "supreme power" of the Board over the Superintendent.

(3). We cannot afford to pay more for a Superintendent.

The current base salary for an elected Superintendent is \$94,000 plus pension, insurance, education development, travel expenses, mileage, social security, Medicare, etc. as mandated by the state. If our Superintendent were hired, we could negotiate the salary and contract.

(4). We have more accountability with an elected Superintendent.

With the new process, accountability would be more defined because the School Board will be held responsible for the governance and the Superintendent would be able to give full attention to administration and school improvement instead of running for election every four years. (5). Why can't we just change the requirement for Superintendent and raise our qualifications? The Florida Legislature is the only governing body that has the power to change the state qualifications.

(6). Why not find a qualified Franklin County resident to run for the position? Some qualified individuals that we have asked are reluctant to run for the position because (1). They are not life-long residents and feel they would not be elected through *(See Superintendent, Page 4)*

(Superintendent, From Page 3)
popular vote, (2). The expense related to campaigning, (3). They are unwilling to run based on the politics that would restrict them from making important CEO decisions over our \$23 million budget, managing over 200 staff (including contracts), overseeing the facility, and staying current on laws and deadlines that affect the overall function of the school.

Full Moon Climb at Cape St. George Lighthouse

The October Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Wednesday, October 8. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 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 7:17 p.m. and the moon will rise at 7:35 p.m. on October 8.



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.

Upcoming Events

Sea Turtles – Our Oldest Visitors

Saturday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the State Park. For all of those who are young or young at heart. You are invited to learn about sea turtles through fun filled activities. Come out and join the Park staff for these exciting adventures for the entire family to enjoy. Participants should bring drinking water, sunscreen, and dress for the beach. This program is free with paid park entry.

Cast Iron Campfire Cooking

Later that day at 5:00 p.m. Come out and learn how to make your next camping adventure a little sweeter. Join the Park staff for a demonstration of cast iron campfire cooking with an emphasis on desserts.

Participants should bring a chair and drinking water. This program is also free with paid park entry.

Apalachicola Bay Chamber Of Commerce Golf Tourney

On Wednesday, October 8 at St. James Bay Golf Resort, 151 Laughing Gull Lane, Carrabelle, you can tee up with business members from around the Franklin, Gulf, Leon, and Wakulla County areas at the 11th Annual Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. Tee time is 1:00 pm on the beautiful St James Bay Golf Course, just east of Carrabelle. Well-known golf course designer Robert Walker created this beautifully manicured 18 hole
(See Golf, Page 5)

(Golf, From Page 4)

championship course that creates a challenge for even the most skilled golfer, yet still a course golfers of various abilities will love. The tournament will be a flighted man scramble, low score wins with prizes for the top three teams. Scores will be totaled and prizes will be awarded at the reception following the tournament. Cost per team is \$400, \$100 per player. Fees include range balls, golf carts equipped with color GPS system. Tournament proceeds will go toward the Chamber's building fund. For more information contact the Apalachicola Bay Chamber at (850) 653-9419 or email us at info@apalachicolabay.org.

Blues in the Lot

On Saturday, October 11, join five great blues bands in downtown Apalachicola starting at noon until 8:00 pm. Last year's acts included Matt Law Guitar aficionando, Luther PC, Smackwater Retrievers, Preservation Blues Band, Slim Fatz and the John Bull Blues Band. For more information, call 850-653-5564.

Outdoor Survival Workshop

Saturday, October 11th at the St. George Island State Park from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you were stranded outdoors, could you survive? Help may be just a phone call away, but do you have a signal? Come out and learn about easy to carry survival items and how to use them. The Park staff will discuss real life survival stories and show a demonstration of a simple shelter. You may bring a non-weapon item that you consider essential to outdoor survival. The program is free with paid park entry.

Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta

On Saturday, October 11, at the FSU Marine Lab at 3618 Coastal Highway 98, St. Teresa. Grab some trash, build a boat, and enter the race to win or sink! Either way, you could get an award. Boats should be artistically interesting, reasonably buoyant, and made entirely of recycled materials. For more information, call (850) 697-3887 or go to marinelab.fsu.edu/outreach/regatta/

Apalach Oktoberfest

Prost! Apalachicola's first Oktoberfest celebration will be held on October 12, from Noon to 8PM at Bowery Station at 252 Water Street, Apalachicola. This will be a



great day of live music, bratwurst, and of course, great beer! Come join us for a full day of music and festivities! Non-Stop live music from Noon to 8pm, with some of the best regional performers on the Gulf Coast. A live album will be recorded during the course of this fun and lively event. Apalach Oktoberfest is the day after "Blues (*See Oktoberfest, Page 6*)

(Oktoberfest, From Page 5)

in the Lot", an annual musical event of Blues and barbecue, and it is scheduled during Columbus Day weekend. Hosted at the Bowery Station in the historic Bowery district of Apalachicola. Bowery Station has quickly become the Forgotten Coast's musical mecca, as musicians and live music enthusiasts have sought out this eclectic beer and wine joint to enjoy playing and listening. For more information, call 850-653-2211. Or go to www.APALACHOKTOBERFEST.com

History Lecture: Ed Moore

On Thursday, October 16, at 128 Market Street, Apalachicola, Ed Moore of Tallahassee will discuss his memories and the history of St. Teresa. Moore has visited the resort since the 1940s. The lecture will Be held at the Raney Carriage House Located at the corner of Avenue F and Market Street. Light refreshments will be served. The lectures are free all AAHS members and the public. For more information, call 850-653-9783 ext. 160, or go to www.apalachicolahistoricalsociety.org/

Family Fishing Clinic

Come to the Family Fishing Clinic Sunday, October 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the St. George Island State Park. Come out and learn knot tying, cast netting, and inshore fishing techniques at St. George Island State Park. This four hour lecture and hands on fishing clinic is for all ages. Anglers 16 years of age and older will need a Florida fishing license. Space is limited. There will be a few loaner poles available. All participants will be allowed free admittance to the park. Call (850) 927-2111 for more information.

Captain Newman at Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum

On Saturday, October 25, the museum will show the movie Captain Newman starring Gregory Peck, Tony Curtis and Angie Dickinson at 10:15 AM. The movie takes place in 1944 at an Army hospital and centers around the Psychiatric Ward. The museum is at 1001 Gray Avenue in Carrabelle. For more information, please call 850-697-8575, or go to www.campgordonjohnston.com. Admission is by donation and appreciated. Free Popcorn is available

Thanks to the Franklin County Tourism Council for Upcoming events.

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Please visit our website: www.sgcivicclub.org for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area. Email us at sgicivicclub@gmail.com Dues are \$20 per person and can be mailed to SGI Civic Club, P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328.

The Islander is edited by Eric Roberts, egrob2@fairpoint.net